



## news

### significant shorts

#### Coroner links CJD death to eating infected meat

The Government came under renewed pressure to open a public inquiry into the risks posed to humans by "mad cow" disease, after a coroner linked a 19-year-old trainee chef's death to having eaten BSE-infected food.

Recording a verdict of misadventure on Matthew Parker, of Doncaster, who died of the new variant of the incurable brain disorder Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) in March, deputy coroner Fred Cards said that on the balance of probabilities the medical evidence showed a link between the teenager's infection with CJD and the consumption of BSE-infected food. He was said to have had an appetite for burgers, pies and sausages.

The solicitor to the Parker family, David Brody, said after the verdict: "The link with BSE has been accepted by the coroner and we are pleased with that. We have suggested to the Government that a public inquiry is what is needed now."

Yesterday was the second time that a UK coroner has blamed a CJD death on BSE. Last October, a Belfast coroner linked the two diseases in the death of Maurice Callaghan, 30, whose wife told the inquest that he had eaten red meat two or three times a week. There have been 21 recorded cases of new variant CJD in the UK since it was first identified in 1995.

Charles Arthur

#### Fire alert shuts Channel Tunnel

The Channel Tunnel was closed for more than an hour yesterday after two separate fire alarms went off within minutes of each other on board freight trains travelling in opposite directions.

Up to 60 passengers had to be evacuated to the service tunnel while the cause of the alarms was investigated and the trains cleared to proceed. Two Eurostar passenger trains, carrying about 200 people, were also held up. An investigation will be launched into why the two alarms were wrongly activated, but a spokesman for Eurotunnel said that it appeared to be "pure coincidence" that they should have gone off so close together. Under new safety procedures introduced following last November's fire within the tunnel, the trains stopped immediately the alarms were sounded.

#### Supreme victory for Motown fans

Two British Tamla Motown fans have won a 10-year battle to persuade record giant PolyGram to open their vaults and release an album of rare tracks.

Chris King and Jim Stewart refused to take no for answer from the owners of the Motown catalogue and are now celebrating the release of *This Is Northern Soul*. It features 24 rarely-heard tracks from legendary singers from the mid-60s like Marvin Gaye,

Gladys Knight (left), Frank Wilson and even Motown's backing group the Andantes. Mr Stewart, 50, a CD supplier from Swanley, Kent, and Mr King, a DJ from Nottingham, hope to sell 12,000 copies of the compilation to ensure a second album is commissioned.

#### Body of British diver recovered

Rescuers yesterday recovered the body of British diver Rob Parker, 35, who died after getting into difficulties during exploration of the Blue Holes underwater cavern complex in the Bahamas. A fellow diver had tried to help him to the surface after problems developed while the pair were diving at a depth of 260ft, but he himself got into difficulties and the two men became separated.

#### Killer on run after jail escape

Police are hunting the brutal killer of a mother-of-three after he escaped from a low-security jail with another inmate.

Police said Darren Jackson, who murdered, sexually assaulted and robbed 29-year-old Gillian Ellis as she walked home from a party in December 1984, was dangerous and violent and warned the public not to approach him. He was serving a life sentence.

Jackson, 32, formerly of Burnley, Lancashire, and 22-year-old Neil Skinner - who was serving a three-year term for drug offences - escaped from Raby Prison, Nottinghamshire on Tuesday evening.

#### Monster wasps' nest found in attic

The current heatwave has led to what experts believe could be the biggest wasps' nest in the country being found in the attic of a family home.

The nest, which measured 4ft 8ins by 4ft 6ins, was found in the loft of a house in Lawley Gate, Horseygate, near Telford, Shropshire. A spokesman for the *Guinness Book of Records* said there was no entry for the largest wasps' nest in the current edition and added:

"We would need to do some research before we could confirm whether or not it is the biggest one."

#### Women infringed by bizarre painter

Police are seeking a man who has covered women in paint on the pretence that they will appear as painted statues in a performance at the Edinburgh Fringe.

Officers investigating the bizarre incidents say the man, who calls himself Steven, is known to have painted at least two women - fully clothed - in the past 10 days in the Leith area of Edinburgh.

A police spokesman said: "No physical harm has been done to any of this man's victims, but clearly we want to find out who he is ... We realise people may be embarrassed to come forward but we need to find out how many people he has come into contact with."

#### DAILY POEM

##### The Sign

By José Angel Valente  
(translated by Arthur Terry)

Scanning this tiny man-made object,  
this simple bowl of clay baked in the sun,  
in which the permanence of coarse material  
becomes a sign or token.  
whose kneaded presence turns to brittle form,  
image of time or escape from time,  
one's gaze unfolds,  
slowly takes in the delicate invention,  
all that the hand instilled into the lump  
of clumsy living earth.

Here, in this object  
which the shifting eye explores,  
seeking the axis of proportion,  
our being settles for a moment;  
through it some other life extends its truth,  
another eye, another dream achieves  
their simplest answer.

Today and tomorrow, the Daily Poem comes from *Agenda* magazine's special issue on new Spanish verse, edited by Jordi Doce with translations by a galaxy of British and Irish poets including Paul Muldoon, Andrew Motion and Michael Hofmann. The *Agenda* Anthology of Spanish Poetry costs £4.90; annual subscriptions are £20 from 5 Cranbourne Court, Albert Bridge Road, London SW11 4PE.

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### people



Glorious: Dustin Hoffman (right) smears mud over the pop singer Sting as they take a therapeutic mud bath in a lagoon in Dalaman, on the Mediterranean coast of Turkey. The actor and singer are sharing a luxury yacht with their families on a cruising holiday which also took them to visit a sea turtle nesting home, in line with Sting's well-known concern for wildlife (Photograph: Reuters)

### Elle MacPherson prepares for model motherhood



The latest development in the life of Elle MacPherson (right), the Australian model, may pose a threat to the perfectly proportioned figure that has earned her the nickname *The Body*. MacPherson, 34, is pregnant with her first child, it emerged yesterday.

Her brother, Brendan Gow, said that the baby was due in February. The father is Arpad "Arde" Bussom, the 35-year-old Swiss financier who has been at MacPherson's side since she split up with Kevin Costner, the Hollywood star, last year.

Mr Gow said that the model had told her family about the pregnancy a month ago. "She's very happy, and it will be a very welcome addition to the family," he said. According to reports in Australian women's magazines, MacPherson has been wearing an engagement ring since March, but has told friends that she does not plan to get married until after the baby is born.

Her father, Peter Gow, said yesterday that she had been "in love for some time now". He added: "I don't know about marriage. This is the 20th century."

In recent years, MacPherson has branched out from

her lucrative modelling career into other interests, including acting. Coincidentally, her latest role is as an expectant mother, complete with padding, in the American film *Mom's Up On The Roof*.

MacPherson, whose previous credits include *Batman* and *Robin and Sirens*, also has her own women's underwear label, *Elle MacPherson Intimates*, and a share with fellow models in the *Fashion Café*, a chain of theme restaurants.

Her relationship with Mr Bussom follows a string of romances with wealthy and high-profile men including Yann Gamelin, the French photographer, Tim Jefferies, the British multi-millionaire art dealer, actor Sean Penn and the rock star Michael Hutchence. She married a French photographer, Gilles Bensimon, in 1986, but they separated six years later when she found out that he was having an affair with another model.

MacPherson can still charge tens of thousands of pounds a day as a model, but there are those happy to report any less-than-perfect physical attribute. One newspaper gleefully reported signs of cellulite when she was photographed on holiday in St Tropez last month.

#### BBC erased classic Cook and Moore archives in favour of local news



Almost all of the classic *Not Only ... But Also* series by Peter Cook and Dudley Moore has been wiped by the BBC to make space in its archives for local news programmes, it was revealed yesterday.

Out of 21 episodes of the cult Sixties comedy series 16 were wiped by the BBC between 1970 and 1974. The five that remain were filmed illegally from a TV screen at the time of broadcast by the series producer who was scared of the tapes being lost.

The story emerges from a biography of Peter Cook (right) published today by comedy producer Harry Thompson.

Mr Thompson describes the wiping of the tapes as an act of cultural vandalism and has tried to find out who in the BBC's senior management ordered the wiping.

"Jimmy Gilbert, head of comedy at the time said there was no opposition to the order," said Mr Thompson yesterday.

"People didn't question it. Comedy wasn't seen as a cultural artefact to be saved."

"Instead the main priority was to keep news programmes. Every single dumb local news item had to be kept."

Mr Thompson met Peter Cook after working in the BBC's archives in the Eighties. He discovered the few remaining episodes and copied them onto a

#### Mother arrested after admitting crime on TV

The mother of a former murder suspect was arrested yesterday after telling a television programme she ordered the disposal of a knife.

Diana Ash-Smith's husband Aubrey is currently serving a 12-month sentence after being found guilty earlier this year of perverting the course of justice.

Their son Colin has been questioned in the past about the unsolved murder of Claire Tilman, the teenager who was stabbed to death in January 1993 in an alley at Greenhithe, Kent. He is currently serving a life sentence for attacks on two other women.

A Kent police spokeswoman said yesterday that Mrs Ash-Smith was being questioned at Gravesend police station. "We can confirm that a woman has been arrested on suspicion of perverting the course of justice following comments made in a television programme last night," she said.

Mrs Ash-Smith - who has always believed in her son's innocence - told *Meridian Focus* last night that she ordered a knife to be disposed of when police were questioning her son.

Mrs Ash-Smith, a former mayor of Swanscombe and Greenhithe, says she left the family home being harassed by police.

"I expect I'll get arrested and put away now, but I said for Christ's sake get rid of that bloody knife, you know what police are like, they'll come and put us away."

Paul McCann

Michael Portillo, politician-turned-presenter will tonight prove his credentials as a broadcaster when he tops the bill of a new television series.

The former cabinet minister and darling of the Tory right was no stranger to publicity at the height of his political career. And, since losing his Enfield Southgate seat to Labour at the General Election, Mr Portillo has chosen to stay in the limelight.

His second television appearance, following BBC2's well-received *One Foot in the Past* when he charmed his way around a stately home, focuses on the politics of the 1840s and the Conservative in-fighting which led to the fall of a Prime Minister, years of Tory opposition, and the rise of Benjamin Disraeli. The programme, titled *Leviathan*, charts the split in the Conservative Party, sparked by the com-

laws and the end of protectionism, through the long years of opposition, the brick-by-brick rebuilding of the party and Disraeli's ascent to power in 1874.

Some of the parallels with today's Tory party are deliberate. Mr Portillo was familiar with party divisions during his time in government - although, unlike Disraeli, he never openly challenged his leader.

These insights and his enthusiasm for history were, no doubt, what drew the makers of the BBC2 programme, which will be shown at 7.30pm, to the former politician.

Mr Portillo's easy manner in front of the camera and his lesser-known sense of humour appear to have made him a popular choice for the programme makers. He is currently said to be considering several offers of broadcasting work.

### briefing

#### CHILDREN

#### Heartbeat may prove key to cot-death syndrome

Babies at risk of cot death may be identified in future by studying heartbeat, it emerged yesterday.

A United States mathematician has developed a way of measuring randomness that appears to offer a way to spot infants in danger. The system has already been used to pick out babies that have survived non-fatal episodes of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

The method raises the possibility of screening infants for a tendency to experience periods of unusually regular heartbeat. Such infants could be fitted with monitors to detect episodes of extreme regularity and alert doctors or parents. Normally a heartbeat that seems on the surface to be regular actually beats in a complex irregular rhythm as it responds to incoming signals from the brain, muscles and digestive system. While the causes of cot-death are unknown, some doctors believe babies threatened by cot-death exhibit a strange tendency for their heartbeats to descend into a sinister pattern of regularity.

A report in *New Scientist* magazine said: "The technique doesn't yet offer foolproof detection, but through further refinement could become a powerful medical tool to help save infants from SIDS."

#### HEALTH

#### Asthma patients suffer needlessly

Thousands of asthma sufferers are condemning themselves to a life of misery by failing to treat their condition properly, it was claimed yesterday.

As the number of people with asthma soars, *The Which? Guide to Managing Asthma* said many of the debilitating symptoms could be kept under control by using the most conventional treatments and self-help strategies, and that even deaths can be prevented by taking control of the condition.

The book, written by Mark Greener, an asthma sufferer himself, examines how balancing self-help and correctly used medication can help people with asthma reclaim their quality of life - and, in some cases, even save it. Studies suggest that eight out of ten asthma deaths may be preventable. Mr Greener said asthma sufferers could reduce the risk of an attack by reducing the level of dust mites, a trigger factor, by washing bed linen at least once a week at above 60C, and pillows and blankets monthly, and placing soft toys in the freezer for six hours a week to kill the mites.

People who are allergic to pollen should keep windows closed on hot sunny days, especially in the morning and late afternoon, and, to avoid pollution, asthma sufferers should not jog in polluted areas or exercise with the window open in the city.

#### BOTANY

#### Plants that look into the future



Plants have an uncanny power to predict thunderstorms by detecting electricity in the air, a British expert claims.

Andrew Goldsworthy, a botanist, believes plants developed their weather forecasting ability to gear up their metabolism for an expected downpour. It could explain what every gardener knows - that plants look particularly healthy after thundery weather.

According to Goldsworthy this is an effect that cannot simply be achieved with a sprinkler. The theory is that if plants are watered unexpectedly they cannot react quickly enough to gain the maximum benefit. But if they could tell in advance when it was likely to rain, they could prepare for growth by switching on the necessary biochemical machinery.

Job No 1520

# Why the young must worry over going grey

**Glenda Cooper**  
Social Affairs Correspondent

Today's thirtysomethings, nurtured on the "megabyte, microfibre and media imaging" culture will become the demanding pensioners of the 21st century.

It seems hard to imagine Elizabeth Hurley, doyenne of the very little black dress, and Diana, Princess of Wales, devotee of the exercise bike, wrapped in woolly scarves and clutching their pension books in fingerless gloves.

But this generation of thirtysomethings, who are obsessed with the preservation of youth, must now begin the debate about old age and how they expect society to pay for it.

The baby boomers of the 1960s, who also include Anthea Turner and Nick Leeson, are set to become the grey boomers of tomorrow with a third of the population in 2026 aged over 60, according to a new survey.

Compared to previous generations, the grey boomers will more likely be single, without children, and have a higher level of education while experiencing unemployment and early retirement.

A decade-long baby boom began in 1961 during which more than 10 million babies were born – a larger population bulge than the earlier baby bulge cohort of the immediate post-Second World War years. Those born in the 1960s are now half way to retirement.

By 2021 the number of people over current retirement age will be 17 million, increasing the share of the "grey vote" to 34 per cent – up from less than a quarter today. Men will expect to live a further 21 years after retirement, women a further 25 years.

Twelve per cent of women and 18 per cent of men from the 1960s baby generation will not be married or living with someone by the time they reach the age of 50 (compared with 5 and 9 per cent respectively for those born in 1947).

And among those who do marry a greater proportion will divorce or separate – around 18 per cent of women



more than 90 per cent of all people who have mobility problems are helped by relatives or other household members.

But for the sixties babies the higher incidence of divorce, family break-up and childlessness will have an impact – and with increasing numbers of women in full-time employment and greater geographical mobility it is predicted that fewer women (the traditional carers) will be available to care for older relatives.

Caring is also a long-term experience. On average a fifth of people caring for someone in their own homes provide care for at least 10 years while two fifths provide care for between one and four years. With longer life expectancy many sixties babies will experience the burden of caring for a very old parent as they themselves are approaching or entering retirement. "If current policies continue, baby boomers who care for older relatives can expect even lower levels of state support and face growing charges for that support," said the study. "There is a need for a state benefit that both provides an average wage and protects lifetime living standards for those who take on full-time caring responsibilities."

The study concludes that future policy should aim to plan for phased and more flexible retirements, provide a safety net for those with low retirement incomes and improve preventative health services, health promotion and screening.

"This study is our wake-up call to today's thirtysomethings who are already half-way to retirement," said Sally Greengross, director of Age Concern England. "They will have drastically different expectations to old age to today's pensioners and more political clout – so now's the time to begin the debate about the kind of old age they will expect in the 21st century and how their society will provide for it."

'Babyboomers: Ageing in the 21st Century' costs £14.95 from Age Concern England, Head Office, Astral House, 1208 London Rd, London, SW16 4ER 0181-679 8000



Makeover: Liz Hurley as she might look when she reaches pensionable age and (inset) in her youth

Photomanipulation: Jonathan Anstee

## Advertisers fail to see the funny side of F-word

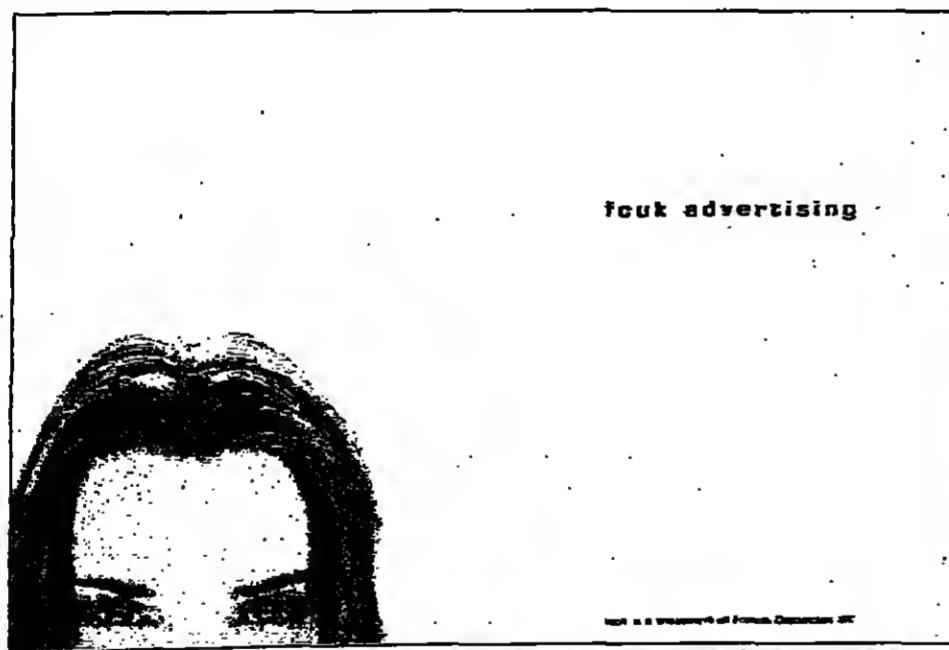
**Melanie Rickey**

The fashion retailer French Connection has been ordered to withdraw its current advertising campaign from style magazines.

The adverts which say "fuk advertising", and feature no clothes, just the top of a model's head, are currently featured in the September issues of *The Face*, *Arena*, *Vogue*, *FHM*, *Sky* and *Marie Claire*, but the committee of advertising protection, part of the Advertising Standards Authority, said they should not appear in the November issues.

Two months ago the company had a similar problem with a previous logo, "fuk fashion". It was used for window-displays, carrier bags, T-shirts and billboards. Strangely, 50,000 T-shirts were sold, 100,000 bags given out, but only a paltry nine members of the public complained about the 150ft boards.

After the initial complaints French Connection replaced the word "fashion" with "advertising" and inserted dots between each letter for the billboards to clarify the abbreviation of the company name, and reduce offence. "We are now using it [fuk] as a trademark, just like, say, the AA or



Fashion statement: French Connection has been forced to change its advertisement

fuk advertising

style magazines if the word "advertising" is replaced with "advertisement", but billboards with a model's head between "fuk" and "advertising" have been approved, and will be unveiled a week on Monday.

Since the company introduced their play on the f-word

into merchandising and adverts in February it has been exposed to 15,000 million people. Lili Anderson, spokeswoman for the company, said: "It's just meant as a bit of fun, a play on words really; magazines are always using the real F-word in their editorial."

## Baby died from methadone

**Steve Boggan**

A young mother and a number of other people have been questioned by detectives following the death of a two-year-old boy from a drugs overdose.

Liam Darcy died last Wednesday, three days after swallowing methadone, a synthetic heroin substitute, at his grandmother's home in Solihull, West Midlands.

Police confirmed yesterday that preliminary tests on Liam's body showed he had fatal levels of the drug in his system when he was rushed to Birmingham Children's Hospital last Sunday.

An inquest which was

opened and adjourned yesterday.

Coroner Richard Whittingham said that the child was unconscious when he was taken to Birmingham's Heartlands Hospital after failing to wake up last Sunday. He was later taken to the Children's Hospital in Ladywood but died after three days. His mother, Nicola Darcy, a veterinary nurse, and her partner, Christopher Williams, were understood to be too upset to attend the hearing.

The incident happened at the Darcy family home, to which Ms Darcy is understood to have returned recently following a disagreement with Mr Williams. A West Midlands spokeswoman confirmed that one person at the house Hobs Meadow was a registered methadone user.

Detective Inspector John Jones, the man leading the inquiry, said: "I can confirm that a number of persons have been arrested in connection with drug-related offences, and they are currently on police bail. There is a full, on-going investigation into the circumstances surrounding this tragic case."

Last month, five Lancashire coroners spoke out about the "tremendous naivety" among the public about the number of drug overdoses. One of the five, Andre Rebello, had talks with Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, asking him to reduce the weekly amount of methadone that chemists could give addicts because it created a market for the drug.

In February last year, an inquest recorded a verdict of accidental death in the case of Daniel Fitzpatrick, a 15-month-old baby who died after drinking methadone that belonged to his mother, 19-year-old Sinead Fitzpatrick. A three-year-old boy who made the same mistake last month Glasgow survived after being rushed to an intensive-care unit at the children's hospital in Yorkhill, Glasgow. After doctors successfully fought to save the boy's life, Sam Galbraith, the Scottish health minister, said: "This underlines the great need for parents to keep all drugs well out of reach of children. Lessons must be learned."

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## 4 politics

# Labour's Scottish hopefuls face stiff test of character

Fran Abrams  
Political Correspondent

Labour candidates for the Scottish Parliament will undergo "searching scrutiny" before their names can go forward, Labour announced yesterday in the wake of the Paisley affair.

Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland, was launching his party's pro-devolution campaign just hours after the suspension of a Labour MP who was found to have been involved in smearing the Paisley South MP Gordon McMaster. He committed suicide last month though the suspended MP, the West Renfrewshire member Tommy Graham, was cleared of any part in his death.

The new measures will be in line with proposals on Westminster selections which are to be discussed at the party's October conference. Mr Dewar said Labour was determined to ensure high standards of debate and of personal behaviour.

He told a news conference that candidates would be vetted by "individuals of standing" who had no personal interest in becoming members of the Scot-

tish Parliament. "The efforts of the vast majority of decent hard-working Labour Party members must not be undermined by conduct which has everything to do with narrow self-interest and nothing to do with the principles for which Labour stands," he said.

Mr Dewar admitted that the previous few days had been "bruising" and difficult. But they should not distract from the poll on 11 September.

"A new parliament will mean

**The efforts of hard-working party members must not be undermined'**

a new era in politics in Scotland. I am determined that the Labour Party will rise to the challenge," he added. "Out of the troubled and sad events of recent weeks, I am determined the party will emerge reformed and strengthened, and ready to help forge a new Scotland over the next 100 years."

Opinion polls in Scotland have indicated a majority of about 65 per cent in favour of the

first referendum question, on whether there should be a Parliament, but only a narrow one of about 54 per cent on whether it should have tax-raising powers.

About 20 of the 56 Scottish MPs elected on 1 May were at the launch, but Mr Graham was not among them. Nor was Mohammed Sarwar, who was also suspended after being accused of trying to bribe an election rival.

Labour's news management appeared to have gone further awry last night when Peter

written that the Government could only succeed through unity. "I have no time for infighting or introspection. I love my party, but I also want it to be modern, professional and well-organised," he wrote.

Unfortunately for him, another newspaper had just picked up on an interview given before the election by Ms Short, the Secretary of State for International Development, to a magazine run by Cafod, the Catholic aid charity.

When asked how she would like to celebrate the millennium, she had replied: "How much better than some silly temporary building in Greenwich, is a commitment to work with other countries to eliminate abject hunger, which we could do."

At the time, Labour had not agreed to fund the dome, nor was Ms Short bound by the rule of collective responsibility which ensures that Cabinet ministers toe the line. Last night she issued a clarifying statement, saying: "As a member of the Cabinet I fully support the decision to go ahead with the millennium dome and I am sure it will be a great success."

Mandelson called for party unity just as it emerged that Clare Short had called his millennium dome "silly".

Mandelson, who is in charge of the millennium project, was in Bolton visiting one of the companies building the dome.

In a newspaper article aimed at supporting his campaign for a seat on Labour's national executive, Mr Mandelson had

lanes on some bridges may have to be closed while others face weight restrictions when the new European Union standard juggernauts are introduced in 1999.

The Road Haulage Association welcomed the news. A spokesman for the association said: "Given the problems we have with limited and dwindling road capacity, the priority for our congested road system has to be the movement of goods and services."

Motorway organisations accepted that commercial traffic needed to be considered, but not always at the expense of the private driver. "It needs a strategic approach that is not confined

to one aspect of traffic but benefits all road users," said a spokesman for the RAC.

The paper offers no immediate solutions instead opting for bleak statements and searching questions.

Since the election, ministers have repeated that they wish to get people out of their cars and onto public transport. The document said the car remained "an integral part of modern society" but a better balance between different transport modes was needed. Asking for views on the best way to cope with congestion and pollution, the document said: "We may all have to come to terms with some difficult personal choices."

Under the proposals, money could be spent to strengthen key bridges - and only allow commercial traffic to use them. It would also see lanes on busy motorways closed to cars in favour of lorries.

Last week, the Commons transport select committee warned that the delayed bridge programme could cause serious hardship to companies. Many local authorities claim they do not have sufficient funds to carry out the repair work on at least 44,000 crossings.

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## Storm brewing as the barred of Himbleton take custom elsewhere

**Chris Mowbray**

It sounds like a storyline from *The Archers*. But this is more than just an everyday tale of rural life for the residents of the Worcestershire village of Himbleton who have been barred from their local pub.

The displaced drinkers say that the licensee, Benjamin Tabary-Davies, is trying to attract a more up-market clientele to the 600-year-old Galton Arms. They claim he has banned more than 70 regulars since taking over two years ago and has tried to introduce table d'hôte and à la carte menus to bring more prosperous customers to the inn, which features oak beams and has the English flag flying outside.

Locals say the landlord wants to get rid of village trade and believe that a blacklist is kept behind the bar of up to 70 locals who are no longer welcome.

The village cricket club's end-of-season match against regulars from

the local pub has already been marred by the controversy. By the time it was played, several members of the scratch team from the Galton Arms had been barred from their pub.

So they went to bat under the new name of the IBBBBB XI - *I've Been Banned By Bastard Ben*. Mr Tabary-Davies, who had been invited to play, did not turn up for the fixture. "Virtually all the team had been banned so we had no choice but to change the name," said the IBBBBB skipper, Vaughan Jones, who lives 100 yards from the pub.

"I was given my marching orders four weeks ago when I was accused of swearing. Mr Tabary-Davies told me I was banned just as I was leaving one night. I thought he was joking, but when I went in the next night the barman said he was not allowed to serve me."

"The place used to be heaving on a Friday night, but now there are only

half a dozen people in there. Still, I suppose it's the correct half-dozen he wants. Just wait until the winter comes and he needs the local trade. We all still meet up somewhere else so who needs the village pub?"

Mr Tabary-Davies said yesterday that everyone was welcome at the pub if they dressed nicely and were respectful to people there, but he would not tolerate bad behaviour. He denied that 70 regulars had been banned and said only a handful of players from the pub cricket team had been banned.

"Customers are still welcome to come in just for a drink and I don't mind if they are casually dressed - even in jeans and shorts. But some of the regulars used to come in straight from work on farms and building sites with their muddy boots. They used to swear a lot as well and I will not put up with effing and blinding. I have a business to run and I don't want riff-raff," he said.

No chance saloon: A drinker sips outside the Galton Arms where many regulars have been banned

Photograph: John Lawrence

## Adidas runs into trouble at Tesco



Branded: Supermarket says Adidas is a bad sport

**Alexandra Williams**

Customers of Britain's biggest supermarket chain can today pick up cut-price sportswear along with their frozen turkey and toilet rolls.

To the horror of Adidas, its wares go on sale at 200 Tesco stores nationwide. Some items are reduced by £20 and Tesco predicts the £1m worth of bargain goods will be snapped up within two weeks.

The whole range of Adidas footwear and clothing will be available. The deals include a pair of SL96 Plus Lea running shoes, which usually cost £49.99 but for which Tesco is charging £25, and a hooded top - normal price £37.99 - which is going for £23.

Earlier this year, it sold 30,000 pairs of Levi's jeans at 40 per cent discount. Like Levi Strauss, Adidas spends millions advertising its products and is refusing to co-operate with the supermarket chain. It is advising customers to boycott the bargains.

Anne Tyrer, spokeswoman for Adidas, said: "Adidas make high-performance, technology-based products and staff in the authentic sports retail channels can give expert advice and support, for example about stability and cushioning, at the point of purchase."

"People can be assured that it's authentic stock and the latest range. Tesco staff do not have that specialist knowledge and customers may walk away with ill-fitting clothes."

But Tesco says this is an excuse to keep the prices high

and has branded the sportswear company a "bad sport".

John Gildersleeve, commercial director at Tesco, said: "We are offering our customers big brands at unbeatable prices. For too long the brand manufacturers have argued against supplying Tesco because we don't fit certain image requirements."

Therefore brands preserve high profit margins resulting in consumers paying more than their American counterparts - Adidas are bad sports and we want to get our shoppers running at a price they can afford."

Tesco has been backed by Nigel Griffiths, consumer affairs minister, who is examining the 1984 Trade Marks Act which is being used to prevent British companies selling imported branded goods at low prices.

Mr Griffiths said: "I want to cut artificially high prices for the British customer. Selective distribution hits the pockets of the poorest most hard. What Tesco is doing is good news for shoppers - that is my priority."

Adidas' refusal to supply Tesco has forced the supermarket to go direct to a supplier in North America. In anticipation of the high demand, Tesco is considering limiting customers' purchases. "It would be much easier to work directly with the company to ensure a constant supply. With the Levi's jeans, some stores limited customers to one per pair."

This is the latest in a series of assaults by supermarkets on goods they deem to be overpriced. Books, medicines, skin care products and compact discs are other areas targeted.

## Mother of girl, 14, knew of pregnancy

**Steve Boggan**

A hospital reacted swiftly yesterday to disprove claims that its doctors had treated a 14-year-old girl during her pregnancy without telling her parents.

Ipswich Hospital found itself on the defensive after an inquest was told the girl's baby had been found dead in a canal three weeks after she secretly gave birth. But inquiries revealed that the hospital's first involvement with the child was when she was treated for a miscarriage, with her mother's consent.

The incident sparked off a fresh debate on patient confidentiality and parents' right to be involved in their children's

welfare. However, Brian Webstell, chief executive of Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust, said he believed there had been a misunderstanding. "The girl first presented at the hospital with her mother on 16 May and a possible miscarriage was diagnosed," he said. "The child was kept overnight and there was follow-up care, all with the mother's involvement."

At the inquest a statement from the parents said they had been "surprised" to learn that their daughter had been pregnant. "I think that could have been construed as meaning they were surprised to learn she had been having treatment. Well, she hadn't," Mr Webstell said.

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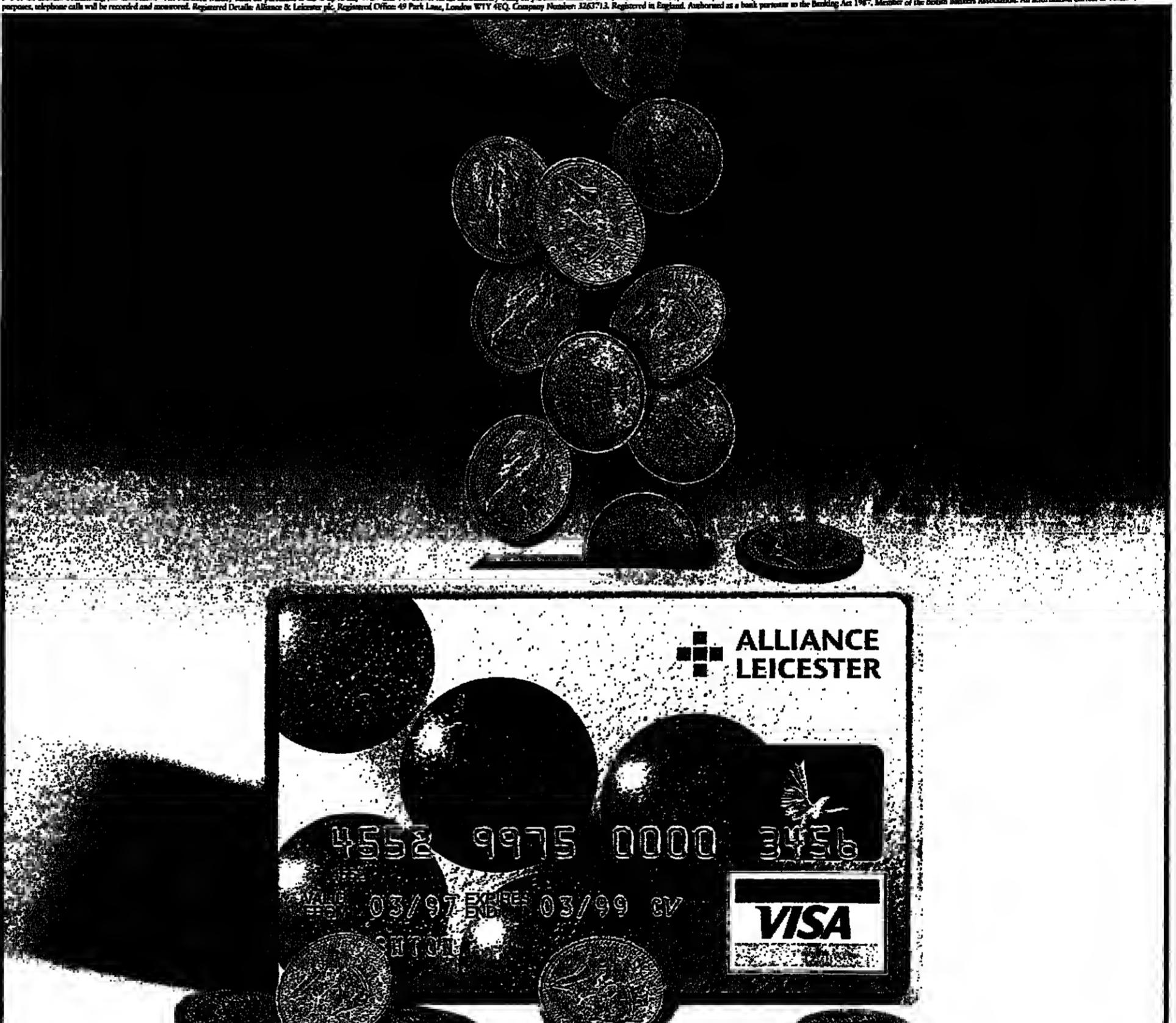
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No chance saloon: A drinker sips outside the Galton Arms where many regulars have been banned

Photograph: John Lawrence

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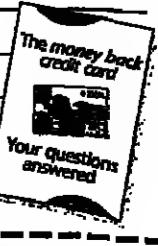
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# Police ordered to pay £80,000 damages

**Jason Berrette**  
Crime Correspondent

Three men received £80,000 damages yesterday after claiming they were assaulted by police officers who then fabricated evidence against them.

The award is another blow to the Metropolitan Police who have been forced to pay more than £20m in compensation and costs since 1986. In the year April, the total was £2.5m.

Lawyers representing the three men who received yesterday's pay-outs said their clients had gone straight to the civil courts because they had no faith in the police complaints procedures which they described as biased and discredited.

There is growing disquiet at the number of people obtaining damages for alleged abuse by the police and the apparent inability of chief constables to sack or discipline officers. But Sir

Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, has accused lawyers of milking the system and has pledged to fight more claims for damages. The police denied liability in the three most recent cases and no officer involved has been disciplined. The officers deny all the allegations.

Mark Thomas, now 26, accepted £30,000 after claiming damages for assault and injury and wrongful arrest. Mr

Thomas said he was punched in the face by an officer while another officer held his arms and racially abused him during a demonstration in north-west London in 1989. In 1990, a judge ordered a jury to clear Mr Thomas of causing grievous bodily harm to a police officer and violent disorder.

In the case of Timothy Murphy and John Race, who yesterday accepted £30,000 and £20,000 respectively, they

claimed they were falsely arrested after being ejected from a pub in 1991. Mr Murphy said he was forced to the ground while officers kicked and beat him. Both men were later cleared in court of any wrongdoing.

Fiona Murphy, who represents the men, said: "They chose to pursue civil claims against the police rather than rely on the discredited police complaints process."

Lawyers are opposed to po-

lice officers investigating fellow officers, the higher standards of proof needed against the police and the lack of legal representation. Ms Murphy said the Commissioner knew of the allegations, which were aired in court, but failed to take any action against his officers. "On the contrary, he continues to deny liability, has refused to apologise and has taken no action whatsoever against the police officers, who continue to serve in

the police force," she added. Scotland Yard said in a statement that none of the three men concerned had made a complaint to the police, but had chosen to pursue civil actions.

"Increasingly, we are living in a litigious society where members of the public are more inclined to take out civil actions against the police rather than make a formal complaint as they stand a high chance of obtaining a large financial settlement. This

is frustrating for the police who are unable to bring disciplinary charges without co-operation from the plaintiff."

Yesterday's awards are part of a long dispute between the police and members of the public seeking damages. In February, the Court of Appeal cut by £185,000 a £220,000 award for wrongful arrest and assault, and in making the ruling placed a £50,000 ceiling on awards by juries for police brutality.

**Food for thought:** A priest and a pilgrim enjoy lunch yesterday next to a memorial to Charlotte Pearson Boyd, who restored the Catholic Slipper Chapel at Walsingham and was one of the pilgrims that began going there in 1897. Photograph: Andrew Buurman

**Two faiths become one at Norfolk shrine**

**Louise Jury**

It was small gesture bridging the religious divide. Twenty Anglicans, marked by their striking blue capes, joined nearly 1,900 Catholics to mark 100 years of modern pilgrimage to the tiny shrine at Walsingham, Norfolk.

Their presence would have been unheard of in 1897 when 40 Catholics held the first public pilgrimage to the village's Slipper Chapel after a break of 350 years.

As recently as the late 1920s, Anglicans were not even allowed to enter the chapel whose name derives from the pilgrims' habit of leaving their shoes and walking a final further mile to Walsingham's ruined priory on foot.

But yesterday, it was as if the boiling sunshine had brought out a warm spirit of religious tolerance. Fr Martin Warner, the administrator of a nearby Anglican shrine, said everything was going "magnificently".

"This says quite clearly that Walsingham is a place of ecumenism," he said. Whatever



er divisions there are in doctrine elsewhere, he and his counterpart at the Catholic shrine, Fr Alan Williams, work together often.

Admittedly some of the

guardians of the Anglican shrine have gone one step further – they actually converted to Rome. And other pilgrimages have faced fierce anti-Pope demonstrations. But yesterday

Fr Warner insisted: "The experience of coming to Walsingham is one of healing. I think that's what motivates people to come here and I think that's what they discover."

As pilgrims arrived with white cotton hats, picnic hamper, garden chairs and umbrellas as parasols, the celebration had the air of a garden party rather than a religious

service. The level of excitement at a sighting of the former prime minister of Ireland, Cardinal Cahal Daly placed him in the minor film star league. He led the open-air mass, then the procession through the tree-lined lanes of Norfolk to finish the pilgrimage.

As in days gone by, some pilgrims walked with bare feet on the scalding tarmac. Others

bobbled bravely on sticks or travelled by wheelchair, reciting prayers and clutching rosary beads. A young Irish boy refused his brother a drink from his water bottle. "John Paul, it's only mineral water, let him have it," said his mother. "No, it's not me," he replied. "I filled it up with the holy water."

A party from St John Bosco church in Blackley, Manchester, had left home at 6.30am to get to what is regarded as Nazareth for Britain's Catholics, their most important religious site. Agnes Lewis, 58, a retired teacher, came because she has been recently widowed after caring for her sick husband for some time. "It was just something I felt I wanted to do," she said.

Sheila Pawson, 47, a medical secretary, comes regularly with the diocese. Pauline Millington, 50, also a medical secretary, was on her first visit. None had known the Anglicans were invited, though all thought it a good thing. "I think it's good we're all together," she said. Ms Millington agreed. "Things are changing."

Peter Brogan, 43, a deacon from Lincoln, was on holiday with wife Mary, 37, and three of their children. "I think we've got to be more ecumenical now," he said. "The one important thing that we've got to realise is that we're a Christian country."

## Stealth bomber is invisible... as long as it doesn't rain

**Charles Arthur**  
Science Editor

It is one of the most feared weapons in the US arsenal: an airplane invisible to radar, which can fly in and drop its bombs before flying elusively away.

But a new US government report has put a dampener on the B-2 "Stealth" bomber's reputation. If you leave the airplane in the rain, the report reveals, its special powers rapidly erode: the composite coating that absorbs radar signals is destroyed by water.

Even worse, according to the US Government Accounting Office (GAO), the special plastic and metal composite coating the \$2.2bn B-2 bombers also loses its invisibility if exposed to humidity or excess heat. To be functional abroad, B-2s would have to be kept in giant air-conditioned hangars – and even then, where maintenance crews will find themselves spending 39 per cent of their time repairing the damage caused to the material which covers the aircraft. To repair

properly, the material needs a cool, dry environment to "cure" correctly.

A report, published this week by the GAO, which monitors public spending, notes that the 29 B-2 bombers ordered, at a total cost of \$4.7bn, "cannot meet their intended deployment requirements because the low observability features are more sensitive to climate and moisture than expected".

Ideal conditions would be a desert – hot even that carries hazards. Night temperatures can drop below freezing in the desert – and the GAO learned that "if moisture or water freezes in the B-2 it can take 24 hours to thaw and drain".

So far, the US Air Force has spent about \$43bn of the budgeted \$44.7bn it will cost to get the 21 aircraft into the sky by 1999. But the GAO warned that the need for special hangars will drive up costs even further.

In a response to the GAO re-

port, the US Department of Defense managed to look on the only bright side remaining.

"Sheltering the plane facilitates maintenance," it said. "It also protects the low-observability surfaces from damage." It had no comment on the cost of air-conditioned hangars.

John Pike, an analyst with the Federation of American Scientists, said: "At this point the B-2s got an awful lot to do with money and politics and not much to do with defence."

Flight of fancy: The US government has spent \$43bn on the B-2 stealth bomber

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# Crisis as Colombian refugees flood into Britain

Ian Burrell

The Government's commitment to human rights has been called into question over its response to a sudden influx of Colombian refugees.

The South American country is being torn apart by fighting between right-wing paramilitary groups, left-wing revolutionaries and state-controlled forces.

The Government's first set of immigration statistics, revealed today, will show that thousands of Colombians have fled to seek asylum in Britain. Nearly all have been refused entry.

Yesterday the Government faced further problems over immigration as the Campsfield detection centre in Oxfordshire erupted into violence.

Fires were started in the dormitories and library as 50 inmates, all awaiting immigration clearance, went on the

rampage. More than 100 police officers, many in riot gear, were called to quell the disturbance.

The Government is struggling with a backlog of 53,000 asylum applications and 22,000 appeals from rejected applicants.

But it is the clampdown by immigration officials on Colombians which has particularly concerned organisations working with refugees who believe innocent people have been put at risk of assassination.

By May, asylum applications from Colombia were up 500 per cent on 1996, when there were a record 1,000 applicants.

Next month the Refugee Council will produce a report, *Caught in the Crossfire*, which will claim that officials have turned down many asylum applications because of a lack of understanding of human rights issues in Colombia.

Tony Kay, who researched



the report, said: "They have got a proper appreciation of the human rights violations going on the ground because the situation is changing so quickly."

The report will show that members of M19, once a left-wing guerrilla group but now a legitimate political party, have

grounds that their legal status means they can now expect protection from the Colombian government. Similar assurances were given in refusing applications from members of the left-wing coalition Unión Patriótica (UP), which has lost 3,500 activists to political assassination. But Juan Carlos Lema, of the

Loodoo-based Colombian support group Open Channels, said: "The fact that M19 became a political party does not mean they are not at risk. A lot of people want to have revenge and the government is too weak to give protection."

Claude Morres, of the Jóvot Council for the Welfare of Im-

migrants, said that despite Labour pledges of reform, a "general culture of disbelief" remained among the Home Office officials who deal with asylum-seekers. The criticisms will concern Labour after its pledges to uphold human rights.

Amnesty International says government forces have fre-

quently co-operated with right-wing paramilitaries, who are responsible for dramatic escalation of torture, political killings and disappearances".

More than 1,000 civilians were extrajudicially executed by the security forces and paramilitary groups last year. This week protesters demonstrated

Making a stand: Demonstrators gathered outside the Colombian Embassy in Knightsbridge, London, to protest about the country's human rights record

Photograph: John Lawrence

outside the Colombian embassy in Knightsbridge over the country's human rights record.

The increase in violence over the past year has coincided with an exodus of refugees to Britain and elsewhere. But within a month of the election, the Government clamped down on the influx by introducing a new visa requirement for all Colombians coming to Britain.

In a speech that was unreported by the press, Mike O'Brien, the immigration minister, warned of the "increasing and alarming" numbers of Colombians making "unfounded" claims for asylum.

Since the change in the law, monthly asylum applications from Colombia have tumbled from nearly 250 to just 15.

Refugee support groups said that people fleeing persecution were often among the 1 million displaced Colombians and were unable to produce evidence of a home and a job, which is usually required for a visa.

Some members of the British Colombian community, numbering around 50,000 and concentrated in London, fear they are being stigmatised over police fears that Colombian drug cartels are targeting Britain.

In an attempt to improve the situation, the Refugee Council has held a series of private meetings with Home Office officials in recent weeks, aimed at making the treatment of Colombians more "fair and efficient".

Silent in the S groves

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## GCSEs: the provisional results

Fewer students entered for GCSE science subjects this year. Last year, an increase in entries in physics, chemistry and biology raised hopes of an improvement in the take-up of science in the sixth-form, writes Judith Judson.

Numbers entering for combined science increased. Overall, the proportion of entries awarded A\*-C in science was up by 0.2 percentage points.

The figure for maths rose by 0.6 and for

English decreased by 0.8. This year's table is different from last year's because the figures, all provisional, include all GCSE subjects.

Last year, only major subjects were included in the statistics.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, attacked the concentration on A\*-C grades on which school league tables are based.

"The fact that 73 per

Subject	Number of candidates	1996 figures shown in ranks						Cumulative percentage of candidates gaining grade or better
		A+	A	B	C	D	E	
Art & Design	221 543	5.5	18.8	36.5	52.1	80.1	91.5	97.3
	228 882	4.6	16.9	34.3	59.2	77.9	90.4	96.8
Business Studies	115 498	2.2	10.5	25.7	51.1	70.7	83.1	92.0
	114 646	2.1	9.8	23.9	49.1	69.5	81.9	91.3
Classical Civilization	3644	6.9	28.1	52.1	75.1	88.0	92.0	94.7
	3447	6.0	25.9	49.9	74.1	87.7	93.5	94.4
Drama	85 500	3.5	19.5	45.4	69.6	84.5	93.6	97.9
	82 165	3.7	20.7	47.9	72.5	87.0	94.8	98.4
Economics	9600	3.1	16.7	38.9	64.5	82.0	88.9	93.8
	11 127	2.9	15.4	36.0	61.7	79.6	87.7	92.8
English	649 559	2.0	10.7	29.5	56.0	78.0	80.4	97.2
	663 009	2.0	11.0	30.3	56.8	78.6	90.5	97.2
English Literature	492 678	2.8	13.7	35.5	62.2	80.7	91.7	97.6
	491 850	2.7	13.9	36.2	63.2	81.1	92.1	97.8
French	328 299	4.1	19.2	34.1	69.8	83.2	94.0	99.2
	345 590	4.4	19.2	33.7	60.9	89.1	92.6	93.7
Geography	290 201	3.9	16.4	34.9	55.1	71.9	85.1	94.1
	322 298	4.0	15.8	33.5	63.7	70.9	84.5	93.7
German	132 615	5.7	22.0	37.4	55.9	73.9	86.0	94.9
	133 177	5.3	21.3	37.0	55.6	73.2	85.1	94.8
Greek	947	50.7	76.9	88.4	96.0	98.0	99.4	99.5
	885	40.0	72.5	87.0	94.2	97.5	97.9	98.0
History	227 447	4.3	17.5	38.0	58.0	72.9	84.4	92.5
	232 011	4.1	16.8	36.8	57.0	72.0	83.4	92.4
Home Economics	104 863	1.8	9.6	24.5	44.1	64.9	82.5	93.3
	97 463	1.5	8.7	23.4	43.2	64.0	81.8	92.2
(Integrated) Humanities	35 562	2.2	9.5	23.2	42.1	61.6	78.9	91.2
	45 982	2.3	10.5	25.4	44.1	61.7	77.4	97.9
Information Systems/ Computing	76 043	2.8	12.3	32.7	57.1	75.2	87.4	94.3
	66 134	2.7	11.4	30.3	55.3	73.3	85.8	93.4
Latin	11 673	28.8	59.2	79.8	91.4	96.5	97.4	98.0
	12 174	21.1	54.5	77.0	89.8	96.0	97.9	98.2
Mathematics	681 265	2.1	9.6	24.2	47.3	63.8	79.4	91.6
	683 330	2.1	8.1	23.4	46.7	61.7	78.8	91.3
Music	43 430	6.7	25.7	50.1	70.1	82.8	91.3	96.5
	42 122	6.8	24.9	48.5	69.1	82.0	90.9	96.5
Physical Education	87 106	4.4	13.5	28.6	47.5	72.6	88.6	96.7
	80 031	3.8	12.7	27.7	46.5	70.6	87.7	92.2
Religious Studies	118 545	4.9	17.0	35.7	56.7	71.8	83.4	91.9
	116 549	4.4	16.4	34.2	55.2	70.6	82.7	91.6
Science:Biology	47 743	10.6	35.0	65.1	84.5	92.9	97.3	99.9
	48 276	10.5	33.5	63.8	83.4	92.5	97.2	99.2
Science:Chemistry	45 797	13.7	35.6	64.9	86.8	94.2	97.7	99.0
	46 885	11.5	34.2	63.6	86.0	94.0	97.5	98.0
Science:Combined	1 007 540	3.5	10.4	28.0	48.4	70.2	86.4	97.5
	997 422	3.1	10.2	27.8	48.2	69.8	86.1	96.3
Science:Physics	44 882	13.6	36.2	65.7	86.2	93.8	97.6	99.1
	46 446	13.3	35.3	65.5	85.3	9		

# Silent danger lurks in the shadowy olive groves of Lebanon

In the darkness, all five Norwegian soldiers hold out their right hands, one on top of the other. "En for alle - alle for en," Lieutenant Vidar "Sims" Simensen mutters. "Alle manna tilbake." All for one and one for all - and we'll all come back together. I am surprised how seriously the men take this Alexandre Dumas routine - until the armoured vehicle in which we are entombed halts in the moonlight and we climb out on the mountainside. Until morning, we will not talk again. We will lie in wait along the infiltration trails and watch through our night-sight binoculars and prowl through the olive groves which, in the darkness, look like forests. Even the savage old dog Eddie, and his handler, Private Stian Kleppé, move like shadows.

It is not an easy United Nations patrol. The moon above the Litani river - deep inside Israel's south Lebanon occupation zone - moves in and out of the clouds; and as our eyes become accustomed to the dark, its sudden appearance almost dazzles us. From the blackness of the grave, we are bathed in a white phosphorescence, as if God has turned on a light switch.

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**Israel retaliates for Hezbollah attack**

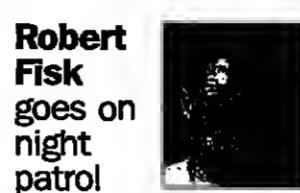
Sidon, Lebanon — Israel's air force launched its biggest attack into Lebanon for 16 months yesterday in retaliation for a Hezbollah rocket barrage against the Jewish state.

Warplanes blasted a power line feeding south Lebanon's largest city and Hezbollah bases west of the border with Syria, and dropped bombs near a Lebanese Army position.

The three strikes, in the space of two hours, added to a spiral of violence that began on Monday and has pushed to the brink of col-



**Robert Fisk**  
goes on  
night  
patrol  
with the  
Norwegian  
peace-keepers  
of UN Observation  
Post 4-27



In this brilliance, I can see Private Tor Sandvik lying hidden beside his 11kg radio, whispering "Alpha One X-Ray Papa moving to Alpha One Lima." Papa is our patrol, Lima is a little sandbagged fort over the river half a mile away, but it will take us an hour to reach it.

Far over the hills to the north, beyond an abandoned Israeli compound, there comes the boom of heavy firing. We are lying only feet from the pale grey track through the olive grove, the trail the Hezbollah probably took when they mortared another Israeli fortress two weeks ago.

The attacks were accompanied by tough talk on both sides of the border that has left many Lebanese in the south bracing for another cycle of bloodshed.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri accused Israel of fueling instability in the region while his Defence Minister described the air raids as "terrorist" acts.

Nazih Nakouzi  
Reuters

away village of Bourhoz - 35 Druze souls living in a battlefield - and Sims thinks as I am thinking (so he tells me later), that the village boy who was beaten up by the Hezbollah last year, is moving. The UN soldiers call him "Lightman".

Then I see another light, far away in the abandoned Israeli fort on the other side of the river. Sims believes the Israelis leave it on to give the impression that it is still occupied.

There is more distant firing,

mortars this time, but Eddie

concentrates on the olive grove.

I hear rustling. Sims has re-

minded us at our briefing that

the Hezbollah could not main-

tain silence at night. Nor could

the Israelis if they too were in

the UN zone. Sims' job is to

keep both of them out. We can-

not move off our own "blue

line" path - the only route

cleared of mines - but we can

shout "Halt - United Nations"

(the phrase, of course, that has

sent many a quivering Serb to

his knees) and hope that who-

ever is there goes away. Five

rifles point into the darkness in

case it does not. All the while,

the firing continues over the

mountains. Theo and Sims

turn to the soldiers. The

sound has grown fainter. Eddie

is back on his haunches. We will

never know what was out there

in the olive grove.

Two am. The moon has fallen

behind the mountains. High

on our perch at Alpha One

Lima, we stare down into the

valley of the Litani through

our night-sights. I can see trees

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## international



**It's summer – and world leaders head for sun, sea and a little state business**

**Foreign Staff**

Across the globe, trouser legs are being rolled up and sun cream rubbed in. It is the holiday season, for everyone – including world leaders.

The world's swankiest hotels, best beaches and tightest security are at the disposal of heads of government. Benjamin Netanyahu takes a photocall in the Mediterranean with his family, and a phalanx of bodyguards. Jacques Chirac chooses a tropical hotel patronised by royalty and pop stars. And Peking's leaders have the best beaches at the popular Chinese resort of Beida He cordoned off for their private use.

But many choose a simpler holiday. Informality, epitomized by Tony Blair, is very much in tune with the holiday manners of the modern world leader.

Mr Blair, polishing his European credentials, has spent half his holiday in Tuscany and half in France, where he will later this week meet with Lionel Jospin, his Socialist counterpart the French Prime Minister. "I know he lives nearby. We will see one another," said Mr Blair, as though he hoped to bump into Mr Jospin in the fresh fruit and vegetable section of the local hypermarché, increasingly, business and leisure are mixed.

**Blair family leads in informality, while Jiang takes the whole office to the beach**

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The Clintons showed the common touch by dressing in baggy T-shirts and running shorts. But they were at Martha's Vineyard, that ultra-trendy haunt of the monied, old and new, and the White House press corps went along too, for staged photo-opportunities and "impromptu" statements on current events.

Russia's Boris Yeltsin spent half his holiday on the Volga and half in Kareli in the north, where he relaxed in a newly renovated government dacha by a lake, which was closed to the public and filled with thousands of fish to ensure the President's success with rod and line.

The working element of the holiday in Kareli was that Mr Yeltsin played host to the Finnish President, Martti Ahtisaari. It must have been an odd experience for Mr Ahtisaari to be a guest in Kareli, which used to belong to Finland until the Soviet Union seized it at the end of the Second World War. Perhaps even odder, he found himself in a sauna beaten with birch twigs by the President of Russia, an experience few will be able to record on their postcards.

In the past, Israeli prime ministers did not usually take holidays – or if they did, they frolicked so discreetly no one noticed. But Benjamin Netanyahu has broken the mould this summer. He is Israel's first yuppie prime minister, the first to have grown up in the less austere climate of the US, the first to have small children while in office.

Inevitably, the Netanyahu holiday began last Wednesday. His mother, who died during his 27-year incarceration, once lived across the road. And Mr Netanyahu has a simple explanation for his choice of destination: "Everybody comes back to where they were born," he says.

turned into one big photo opportunity. Bibi, Sara and their two sons, Yair, six, and Avner, two, playing on the beach at Caesarea, the upmarket Mediterranean resort where a businessman friend lent them his villa. Hezbollah, alas, spoilt the fun. Mr Netanyahu broke his vacation on Tuesday to sympathise with the people of Kiryat Shmona, whose homes were hit by Katyusha rockets from Lebanon.

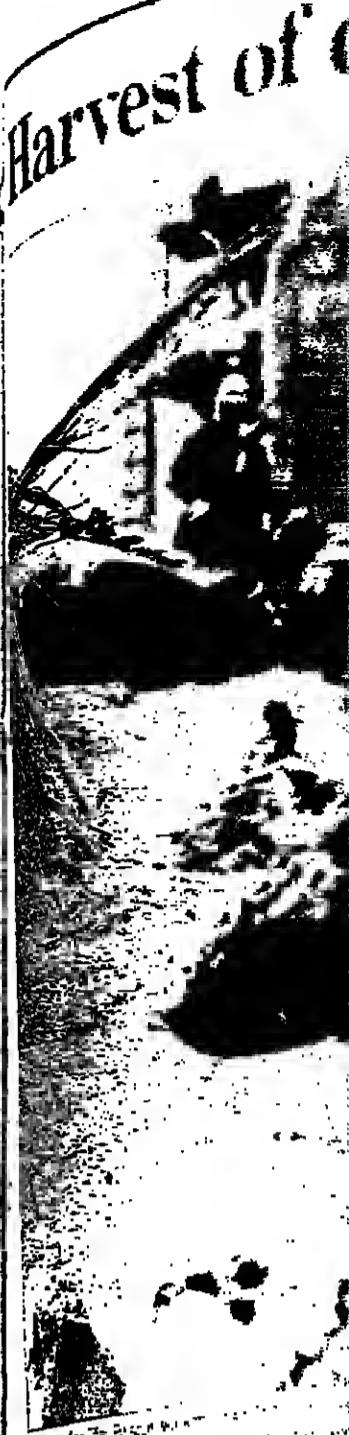
The French President, Jacques Chirac, has just finished his holiday, and returned to Paris on Tuesday after three weeks in the tropics. He started in La Réunion, in the Indian Ocean, and then moved on to Mauritius, 150 miles away. One of the advantages of a colonial heritage is that La Réunion is under French control, and is not considered a colony, but rather as a French territory. Mr Chirac was staying with his wife Bernadette, their daughter and their grandson, in a hotel which has entertained the likes of Princess Stephanie of Monaco and the singer James Brown.

Perhaps the least relaxed holidaymakers are the leaders of the Peoples' Republic of China. Far from getting away from it all for his holidays, China's leader takes the office and all his senior colleagues with him for his summer break. President Jiang Zemin and his entourage descend every year on the seaside resort of Beida He, about 150 miles east of Peking.

Beida He has a lively holiday atmosphere – at least where the masses play. The town is rather like Blackpool, with a strange form of apartheid imposed upon it. To the east, the public beaches are thronged with state work units on their official holidays; to the west, the often-deserted best beach is cordoned off for the senior leaders and no curious passers-by are allowed anywhere.

Although he has two luxurious official residences and a post Johannesburg home, when President Nelson Mandela takes his month-long summer holiday he heads for Qunu. Here he has had a replica of his old quarters at Victor Verster prison, a modest red-brick bungalow, built in the wilds of the Transkei.

His mother, who died during his 27-year incarceration, once lived across the road. And Mr Mandela has a simple explanation for his choice of destination: "Everybody comes back to where they were born," he says.



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**in Section Two.**

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ness

## Harvest of death as a grain store explodes



Digging for life: Rescue workers searching in the wreckage of a grain silo after it exploded yesterday in the city of Blaye, in south-west France. Eleven people were buried beneath tons of grain and rubble and were feared dead

Photograph: Fabien Cottreau/Reuters

## Cash toll could bring Mir down to earth

Charles Arthur  
Science Editor

The *Mir* space station may finally meet its end next year, brought down by technical problems but the sheer cost of running it, Russia's deputy finance minister has hinted.

As the three astronauts on board the orbiting station prepared for a spacewalk tomorrow to restore power and make repairs, Vladimir Petrov, first deputy finance minister said: "The task is pressing. We must remove *Mir* from orbit. This will be done next year." He added: "You see, there have already been a series of breakdowns, one failure, another failure."

However, Valery Ryumin, who heads Russia's cooperation with the United States' space agency, Nasa, on *Mir*, said: "A bureaucrat [Petrov] can say whatever nonsense he wants. I don't even want to hear this nonsense."

Mr Petrov's comments were made to reporters on Tuesday for release last night, to coincide with a government discussion of

the 1998 budget, which will be sent to the Russian parliament by next Tuesday. That leaves the distinct possibility that the comments were part of a bargaining plan to try to reduce spending.

Exact figures on *Mir*'s operating costs are not available, and observers say Russian military control of some aspects of the programme make it hard to calculate.

But *Mir* does earn valuable foreign currency: the US agreed to pay Russia \$478m (£300m), mostly for *Mir*-related activities, under a December 1993 agreement to last until 1998. The European Space Agency (ESA) paid \$50m for two joint missions involving *Mir* in 1994 and 1995.

Russian space officials have said they intend to keep *Mir* in orbit at least until 2000, and leading Russian policymakers have not previously advocated its retirement.

If and when it is abandoned, it will eventually fall to earth. Though most of it should burn up in the atmosphere, large pieces are expected to survive.

## Town defies Hun Sen

### Waigel says he's tired of Germany's economy

German finance minister Theo Waigel hinted in an interview broadcast yesterday that he would quit after September 1998 federal elections at the latest.

His ministry and party played down the comments, saying he had never specified the date of his resignation. But the confession that he was tired of taking the heat for Germany's economic problems was a damper for Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who is seeking re-election next year. Mr Waigel, a loyal ally, has had the post since 1989.

#### Sikhs request Amritsar visit

Indian Sikh leaders said that they wanted the Queen to visit Amritsar. Prakash Singh Badal, chief minister of the state of Punjab, in which Amritsar lies, said: "If the Queen visits Punjab but does not go to Amritsar, it will be a great misunderstanding." The visit has been under a cloud of controversy since Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral said he did not want Amritsar included in the visit to avoid bitterness over the 1919 massacre. Reuters - Chandigarh

#### Four dead in grudge shooting

A man who apparently held a long-standing grudge against a judge killed her, two state troopers and a newspaper editor during a three-hour rampage in New Hampshire that ended when he was shot to death. The man, identified as Carl Drega, 67, was once the subject of a restraining order imposed by judge Vickie Bunnell. AP - Colebrook

#### Rival for Saudi national airline

Abdul Rahman al-Jeraihy, chairman of the Saudi Council of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said he backed the creation of a private domestic airline in the kingdom. He said competition for national flag carrier Saudi Arabian Airlines could lead to "better, cheaper and more beneficial services".

## international

### French vineyard owners set to reap a vintage harvest

Joanna Lee  
Paris

After two very good years for wine, French vineyard owners already had dollar signs flashing before their eyes as they looked forward to a harvest that is likely to be even better than the last two. All the signs are now indicating that 1997 could be one of the best vintages in decades.

As early as 4 August, grape-picking began in Rivesaltes, north of Perpignan; and on Monday the Haut Brion chateau near to Bordeaux announced that it would begin the grape harvest for white wine grapes on Monday, and for red wine at the end of the week. Grapes have not been ready for harvest this early since 1893.

Jean-Bernard Delmas, the chateau's director of commerce, explained that "the harvest usually takes place between 20-25 September ... but from the month of May it was clear that we would be harvesting early because the grapes were already very mature." Bottles from the last early harvest, in 1990, are now selling for several hundred pounds.

Other vineyards have also announced that they will begin harvesting this week, such as Couhins-Couton, Latour Martillac, Fieuzal and Chevalier. All these chateaux are in the Graves region in Bordeaux. The vineyards in the region of Cotes du Rhone are preparing for grape-picking next Monday and across France, wine producers are getting ready for an early harvest, even further north in the regions of the Loire.

The maturity of this year's crop is due to the very hot, sunny spring, and it not only promises good wine, but also means

that the farmers have more time to harvest, which allows them to pick the grapes at the right time. The warmer weather of an early harvest also means that the alcohol levels are generally fairly high.

Even the heavy rain in July that flooded much of Eastern Europe, and made for a lot of wet summer holidays on the Mediterranean, was not a catastrophe for the wine merchants. Although it did destroy some grapes, some rain was essential to speed up the ripening process. The only disadvantage is for the grape-pickers, who will have to go through the vines with greater care, getting rid of the spoilt crop.

Some predictions are more cautious than others: Philippe Raymond, from the Wine Producers' Union in Saint Emilion, said: "Only a catastrophe with the weather would pose any threat to the harvests now, but we shall have to wait and see if the sun continues to shine in the next few weeks before we know if those crops which are not yet ready will be exceptional." Likewise, Fabrice Faquin, director of the Wine and Tourism office in Pauillac, in the Haut-Medoc, said: "All exceptional vintages do come from early harvests, but all early harvests do not necessarily produce good vintages."

Nevertheless, smiles are broad on the faces of most of those involved in the wine industry. A union official from the Bordeaux area said that they are "optimistic and relaxed," and a vineyard owner from Gaillac, in the South-West, said he will get a relatively small quantity of wine, but it will be of excellent quality.

As for the weather, one vineyard owner in the Loire region said: "Even if we could control it, we could not have done any better."

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## obituaries / gazette

### Rolf Knie

Rolf Knie was a giant of the circus world, in more senses than one. A large, authoritative man, he was dwarfed only by his favourite animals, the elephants he trained and presented at the Swiss National Circus Knie.

Among his fellow circus directors, he was acknowledged as one of the giants of the industry in which Circus Knie reigned supreme throughout Europe with a worldwide reputation for quality and class. While Bertram Mills Circus in Great Britain was, from the 1920s to the 1960s, regarded as the finest here, the name of Knie will live on as the most respected circus in the world.

Representing the fifth generation of a circus dynasty now into its seventh generation, Rolf Knie and his brother Fredy, their father Frédéric and uncles Rodolphe, Eugène and Charles, received the ultimate accolade of the circus industry on 19 July this year with the induction of their names into the International Circus Hall of Fame. Rolf had retired from the circus ring as a performer in 1969, having been Europe's leading elephant trainer, but for some 50 years, from 1941, Rolf and brother Fredy directed the fortunes of the Circus Knie which became Switzerland's National Circus and its most-loved form of entertainment: both Rolf and Fredy were soon enjoyed a cult following in Switzerland almost akin to that accorded royalty or pop-stars.

Rolf himself started his career as a child acrobat, but due to his large physique later followed his father, a trainer of dogs, polar bears, horses and a clown to boot into the field of animal training. He was pitched into the presentation of elephants at the tender age of 16, when the trainer of a group of Knie elephants at a Danish circus fell sick. He followed his uncle Charles (who died in 1940) into elephant training, taking over the big herd of Indian elephants after the departure of the master trainer Franz Kraml from Czechoslovakia at the end of 1939.

In 1941 he trained the elephant "Baby" to do a sensationalfeat walking a tightrope, an act he later presented at the Scala Theatre, Berlin, while his brother Fredy worked at the

ther and uncles, becoming talented acrobats, riders and animal trainers. Rolf eventually specialised in elephants and Fredy in horses, both of them the pre-eminent trainers in European circuses.

In 1939, they decided to throw open their training establishment to the public, in order to prove to all that cruelty was not involved in the painstaking and loving training of their animals. This practice is still carried on at Circus Knie today, where daily rehearsals

and training sessions can be viewed by the public at large. In 1950, Rolf Knie married Tina di Giovanni, sister of Dora Caroli, whose husband was the famous bareback rider and clown Enrico Caroli, who often appeared in England with Bertram Mills, Tom Arnold's and Billy Smart's circuses. Tina, who came from Milan, took her traditional place as a Knie spouse in the circus booking office. Their first son, Louis, was born in 1951, and their second, Franco, was born in 1954.

Following Rolf's retirement from the ring as a trainer and presenter in 1969, his son Louis succeeded him with the elephants, later followed by Franco. Louis also excelled as a rider of *haute école* (dressage), and a trainer of tigers, combining in one act tigers which ride on the backs of full-grown elephants. Following the retirement of Rolf and Fredy, after 50 years at the helm of Circus Knie, Rolf Knie Children's Zoo in Rapperswil, where the circus also wintered,

In 1994, Louis Knie left the family concern to launch his own show in Austria under the title of the Austrian National Circus Louis Knie, sited by his son, Louis Jr.

Rolf's younger son Franco, in partnership with his cousin Frédéric Knie Jr., today controls the destiny of the Swiss National Circus, the most prestigious touring circus in the world, and members of the seventh generation of Knie's are among its performers.

In true showbusiness tradi-

tion, Circus Knie did not interrupt its schedule on hearing of the death of Rolf Knie, its administrative director of 50 years, but continued to play to packed audiences in the Swiss capital, Berne.

D. Nevil

*Rodolphe Knie, elephant trainer and circus director; born Wetzikon, Switzerland 23 November 1921; married 1950 Tina di Giovanni (two sons); died Rapperswil, Switzerland 18 August 1997.*



Europe's leading elephant trainer, 1945: Knie (right) taught elephants to walk the tightrope and opened his training sessions to the public to show no cruelty was involved. Photograph: AFP

John Martin was one of that post-war generation of social scientists whose work was done, for the most part, in a benign climate of social change in the 1950s and 1960s. By the mid-1970s, both the social optimism and the public investment which had been directed towards the improvement of British society began rapidly to drain away, and, as with many of his academic generation, Martin's later work was accomplished *contra mundum*.

He was educated at Leighton Park School, Reading, and, after reading English at Reading University, he determined on joining the probation service. As a preliminary, he arrived at the London School of Economics in 1951 to read for the Certificate in Social Science. Instead of entering the world of social work he underwent a fundamental re-orientation in his interests and began on a career in research and teaching which was to encompass the rest of his life. There is no doubt but that the person responsible for this was the great Richard Titmuss.

Titmuss, whose appointment to the Chair of Social Administration at LSE had been something very controversial, since he was not thought of as an academic, was both a practical socialist and one committed to the ideals of a welfare state as envisaged by Beveridge. The strong tradition at the School, which went back to its founders Sidney and Beatrice Webb, was for developments in social policy to be made in the context, not of abstract ideology, but of the realities of social life as illuminated by empirical research. Titmuss, who was an exceedingly shrewd judge of ability, opened Martin's eyes to wider horizons, and in 1953 recruited him to the staff of his department.

In 1959 Martin was recruited by that other great academic entrepreneur of the day, the legendary Leon Radzinowicz, to become Assistant Director of Research at the newly founded Institute of Criminology in Cambridge. He was elected a Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, in 1964. At Cambridge he produced his *Offenders as Employees* (1962) and became responsible for the supervision of graduate research at the Institute. By 1967 it had become time to move on to a chair of Sociology and Social Administration (later Social

Policy) at Southampton which he held until his early 'retirement' in 1989, remaining with the department as Research Professor until he left for Manchester in 1992 where he characteristically formed a connection with the university's Department of Social Policy as a Visiting Professor.

While at Southampton he served as a member of the Isle of Wight Health Authority and on the Board of Visitors at Albany Prison. He contributed significantly to the work of the Jellicoe Committee on Boards of Visitors which reported in 1975.

In all he did follow in the tradition of radical social research to which he had been introduced at LSE. Upon him, as on a whole generation of academics, Titmuss made his imprint and Martin was numbered among those who, come the long winter of Thatcherism, or the political calamity of New Labour, held fast to that precious combination of commitment to a just society resourced by patient and painstaking research. At Southampton University, although not the titular head of department, he shouldered many of its administrative burdens and is remembered with great affection as a generous, wise and just administrator and the most patient of teachers. Few professors have commanded greater respect from their colleagues and students.

Martin first in 1951 to Stela Feather, with whom he had three sons, all of whose considerable achievements brought

him great pleasure, he married in 1963 Professor Joan Higgins, with whom the last years of his life were a time of great happiness. Voyaging was Martin's great love, and he was a bold sailor of no mean competence. He used to say that the best thing about sightseeing the French coast was the thought of the food and the wine that awaited ashore. He was a skillful photographer, producing pictures that would have graced any exhibition. A true *bricoleur*, he was a keen woodworker, attending evening classes for more than 25 years; a talented cabinet maker, he passed his City and Guilds examination only this summer.

His father having lived to a great age – notwithstanding a shell fragment from the Somme lodged in his head for over 60 years – John Martin had hoped for a similarly long life. Fit and lithe of body, he loved the outdoor life and had plans as yet incomplete when cancer was discovered. That he was a fine scholar in his generation is a

mark of distinction: that he was so good and generous a man was enough to earn him the enduring regard of those who knew him, who worked with him and who loved him.

Terence Morris

*John Powell Martin, social scientist; born 22 December 1925; Lecturer, London School of Economics 1953-59; Assistant Director of Research, Institute of Criminology, Cambridge; University 1961-66; Fellow, King's College, Cambridge 1964-67; Professor of Sociology and Social Administration (later Social Policy), Southampton University 1967-99 (Emeritus); Research Professor 1989-92; Hill Foundation Visiting Professor, University of Minnesota 1973; Visiting Fellow, Yale Law School 1974; Visiting Professor, Department of Social Policy and Social Work, Manchester University 1992-97; married 1951 Sheila Feather (marriage dissolved 1981; three sons); 1983 Joan Higgins; died Manchester 17 August 1997.*



Martin: radical social research

### Phil Appleyard

Phil Appleyard was the man who brought hockey to the British public when, one weekend in October 1986, over six million people switched on their television sets to see the closing stages of the hockey World Cup, held in London to mark the centenary of the Hockey Association.

Appleyard had been appointed chairman of the organising committee to oversee the event at Wembley. The tournament attracted more spectators than any previous World Cup. There were "house full" notices, a black market for tickets, and the BBC, at short notice, substituted hockey for its

planned Saturday afternoon programme.

By profession Appleyard was an international fisheries consultant, who liked to refer to himself as "a Grimsby fish merchant". In reality he spent most of his working life dealing with governments and international agencies rather than the housewives of Grimsby. In his younger days, when he could find the time, he had kept goal in hockey for Grimsby and was captain of their team between 1950 and 1960.

In 1981, Appleyard had just returned from a United Nations fisheries project in Korea when

he also took on the equally daunting role of President of the World Cup five years later and realising that they were being asked to stage the most expensive World Cup ever, decided that they could not tackle an event of such magnitude within their own very limited resources. They invited Appleyard to take charge of the whole thing. He tackled the task with enthusiasm and very considerable commercial expertise and organised what is still considered to be the most successful world hockey event staged.

In 1985, during the build-up period to the World Cup, he

Appleyard worked ceaselessly for the Hockey Association, tasked with the running of the World Cup five years later and realising that they were being asked to stage the most expensive World Cup ever, decided that they could not tackle an event of such magnitude within their own very limited resources.

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In 1985, during the build-up

about the merging of the Men's, Women's and Mixed Hockey Associations.

Appleyard represented England on the Council of the International Hockey Federation from 1992 and took over the role of Honorary Treasurer in 1994. He immediately started to reorganise the Federation's financial housekeeping and took on the task of chairing an ad hoc committee to recommend the structures necessary to bring the management of world hockey into the 21st century.

Bill Colwill

*Walter Philip Appleyard, busi-*

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Hendrik  
van den  
Bergh

# Dereliction of duty in the shadow of a volcano

**A**h, the burdens of Empire. The weary Titan may have shed most of its far-flung possessions, but still come the complaints from those who are left as beneficiaries of British rule. The inhabitants of Montserrat, forced to abandon their island because of volcanic activity, have taken to the streets to accuse the British government of political inactivity.

And, of course, they are right. We retain, through a mixture of historical accident, economic circumstance and political deadlock, a number of what it calls Dependent Territories, and we are not always very good at running them. We owe the people of Montserrat a better deal.

The Montserratians, whose island is now all but uninhabitable, are dismayed with the small amount of money they are being offered to relocate. Most want to go to Britain, not to Guadeloupe or Antigua, which is what they have been offered. Those who will stay want proper emergency accommodation, not the ramshackle and poorly organised shelters they have been given so far.

These are all reasonable demands. They are demands made upon their government in Montserrat; but by extension, since Britain is the responsible power, they are

demands made upon this government, too.

The last Conservative government cannot be blamed for the eruption of volcanoes, but it can be blamed for a lot of other things. That government had a responsibility for the well-being of the people of Montserrat. Its ministers were well aware that the volcano was threatening to blow again, and they could have acted earlier to secure the lives of the islanders. This they failed to do. The present government is working hard to catch up, but the overall impression is that there is little time and less concern for Montserrat in Whitehall. This has upset the Montserratians, irritated the neighbouring islands, who now have to bear the burden, and angered the many people of Afro-Caribbean origin who think they smell racism.

They quite possibly do. This country was prepared to spend billions of pounds and lay down lives for the Falklanders, and a good thing too. But it is not, apparently, ready to do much more than send a ship and a few million pounds to the people of Montserrat. It has also, by the by, allowed the Falklanders to have British passports, something that is denied to all the other Dependent Territories.



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Behind all this lies a much larger structural problem. We have what still amounts to colonies in a post-colonial era; now that Hong Kong has gone, what do we do about those that remain? It's not only Montserrat that's unhappy. The 5,000 people of St Helena, stripped of their British passports, have been dispossessed of their history and their rights. Other colonies have also felt unloved, or maladministered. The remaining colonies represent an administrative burden for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

which it is ill-equipped to handle, and for which our diplomats in London receive little thanks and plenty of brickbats. We must, for instance, ensure that anti-money-laundering legislation in the Caribbean dependencies is up to scratch, while fending off complaints of interference from local residents.

To misty-eyed liberals and hardened realists alike, the solution to this problem may seem simple: give these people the independence which they must surely crave. But it's not that simple. Montserrat doesn't

want to be independent, and couldn't survive on its own. The idea of a West Indian Federation (supposed to solve the problem of the smaller Caribbean dependencies) failed almost at its inception.

Colonial rule, in the absence of better solutions, still has its attractions. Two of the Comoros Islands in the Indian Ocean have decided they want to reverse their independence and rejoin France. The Marquesas Islands, part of French Polynesia, also want to tighten their links. They are not doing this through any great love of France, but because economically they think it makes sense. The advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

This may seem like a one-sided deal for Britain, but there is no alternative for the moment. While Montserrat remains a dependency, we have heavy moral obligations towards it. We owe the islanders an apology, and action. Britain may not have the resources, the expertise or the will to run these places, but it has, in most cases, no choice.

Both the Foreign Office and the Department for International Development have tried to move fast to help Montserrat, but the machinery seems to have been pretty inefficient. And on the broader question

of how to accommodate colonies in a post-colonial era, Whitehall is well behind the curve. There is a pressing need for Labour to develop a plan.

This Government has, so far, only one idea: it wants to call the Dependent Territories something else, on the basis that the title is patronising. Name-changing will solve nothing. We are talking about only 130,000 dependent people in these territories - but the Government declines to revise their constitutional status, or to give them full British passports. The rationale is that it would look hypocritical, when we refused to extend that privilege to the people of Hong Kong. This is a bizarre piece of Foreign Office logic: how will it help Hong Kongers to leave St Helensians in the lurch?

We need to accept that the Dependent Territories are British, and will be for the foreseeable future. We have a responsibility, not merely a hazy debt of history, but a practical, political, here-and-now responsibility, towards people who live under our flag. Montserratians should be treated with the same respect and care as our citizens living in Monmouth, or Manchester, or Merthyr.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Cars: how to combat road congestion

Sir: There is a broad consensus which supports the measures advocated by Christian Wolmar ("You, your car and how to end the affair", 19 August) for improving public transport, extending pedestrianisation and encouraging cycling within urban areas as in many other European countries.

One of the reasons that these have been possible in each of the examples quoted by Mr Wolmar - Groningen, Nuremberg and Zurich - is that all are surrounded by networks of high-quality roads which keep through and suburban traffic out of the central areas. In the case of Zurich, motorway links to the north, west and south reach almost to the city centre providing a further opportunity to segregate longer distance traffic that starts or ends its journey in the city.

Furthermore, in Groningen and Nuremberg there are plans for improving those road networks by widening the most heavily trafficked sections.

The Government's proposals for integrated transport are eagerly awaited. They should recognise that where these policies have been adopted successfully they have involved improving all the modes of transport. However, it is worth recording that despite the investments made in public transport, cycling and walking in Germany and the Netherlands, the national level of road traffic has grown faster in both of those countries than in the UK over the last five years. The crucial point is that, as a result of the multi-modal approach to investment being followed in both countries, congestion on both urban and inter-urban routes is far less extensive than in this country.

RICHARD DIMENT  
Director and Chief Executive  
British Road Federation  
London SE1

Sir: In your leading article (18 August) criticising the lack of a coherent national transport policy, much was made of the need to reduce car use. But no mention was made of the prospect that there will be more cars to use: this August is likely to see over 500,000 new car registrations and it is predicted that the car population will increase by over 50 per cent in the next 20 years.

Even if we use our cars 20 per cent less, a target that no transport policy has yet even aimed for, let alone achieved, the sheer number of extra cars on the road must increase traffic densities.

Part of the answer must be to restrict this increase in the number of cars: options could include restricting the manufacture or import of new cars, massively higher taxes on car purchase, or requiring the scrapping of an old car for every sale of a new one. But what government would have the courage to do any of this?

MICHAEL BRYANT

London SW1

Sir: Yes, British cities are 20 years behind their European counterparts in dealing with the motor car (leading article, 18 August) and much else besides. But this certainly isn't because they don't recognise that the primacy of the car cannot continue. Nor is it because of the strength of the motoring lobby. Nor is it because they do not have the imagination or competence or will to deal with the problem.



The Right Hon. Donald Dewar skating on Devolution Loch

Our problem is that we don't have genuine city government in Britain. Our cities have either the power to raise capital nor the authority to use it to regenerate public transport or to manage the car.

ROBERT PRITCHARD  
City Councillor  
Leicester

Sir: The Government's willingness to consider restricting vehicular access on the most congested parts of the trunk road network to strategic traffic ("Drivers face car ban on busy M-ways", 15 August), highlights the increasing concern about the relentless rise in traffic levels.

In Edinburgh we are allocating road space away from private cars, which have an average occupancy of 1.2, and giving it to modes of transport which use space more efficiently. This month saw the implementation of the first Greenways - intensive bus priority and traffic management measures on radial roads.

Restricting access to motorways could simply divert traffic on to already congested local roads. To avoid this the Government is right to be considering direct charging for road use.

Councillor DAVID BEGG  
Convenor of Transportation  
Edinburgh

Sir: I welcome plans to reduce car traffic, but we must be careful that we do not create an elitist society where only the very rich have cars. A lower-income family with several children is more in need of a car than a high-earning business person who drives in to London every day rather than using the train, but it is these families who

will be targeted by policies which tax car ownership and use.

Far more effective would be the taxation of businesses per employee who drives to work, and encouraging those businesses to offer incentives to employees who switch to public transport. Another huge reduction in car traffic would be gained by more incentives for people to work from home using computer, modem and fax.

BEATRICE J PURSER  
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

Sir: Your photograph ("You, your car and how to end the affair", 19 August) of a young man cycling along a deserted path in Regent's Park eloquently demonstrates why more people do not cycle to work in London - what he is doing is illegal.

ANDREW BARR

London NW6

### Counselling can be effective

Sir: Your account ("Counselling loses face in NHS review", 18 August) of the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination Report concentrated on its concerns about the limited usefulness of counselling. Yet the report as a whole contains much evidence for the efficacy of psychological approaches in working with such varied client groups as newly unemployed people, bereaved children and pregnant women.

The moral is that counselling

should not be regarded as a panacea but as one form of psychological treatment among many. It needs to be offered in the context of a complete range of psychological treatments offered by mental health professionals such as chartered psychologists so that people can be sure they will only receive

counselling in situations where it has been shown to be effective. This approach also has the advantage of making it more likely that clients will receive the social support that is often vital to the success of treatment programmes. Many NHS departments of clinical psychology, including my own, employ counsellors as part of the treatment team.

The worrying case history that accompanies your account emphasises the folly of allowing people to set themselves up as "counsellors" or "psychologists" with no legal safeguards for the public. Representatives of the British Psychological Society are to meet Paul Bonteng, the junior health minister, to urge him to bring in statutory control for the profession. Such control, which already exists for doctors, dentists and pharmacists, would do much to protect the public against unscrupulous or incompetent practitioners.

ADRIAN SKINNER  
Chartered Clinical Psychologist  
Harrow Health Care  
NHS Trust

The writer is Vice-Chair, Division of Clinical Psychology, British Psychological Society

### Take the profit out of drugs

Sir: I entirely agree with Jack Girling's suggestion (19 August) that there should be a blanket legislation of hallucinatory drugs.

As an insurance loss adjuster, I have seen burglary claims multiply over the past six or seven years, what seems to be a direct correlation with reported increases in drug abuse. The public is suffering as a result of spin-off crimes such as these. The message is simple. Supply hard drugs at cost price to whoever wants them and take all the profit out of the industry. This not only cuts out the gang warfare associated with this seedy business but also eradicates the need for users to make £100 or more per day out of petty crime in order to feed their habits.

Having said this, the idea of dispensing these drugs through GPs and chemists is misguided. There is already a system of drug prescription for existing addicts through these outlets. What the system does not cater for is the person taking drugs for the first time. No doctor worth his or her salt is ever going to give a "rubber stamp" prescription to a non-addict who just wants to have a go.

Mr Girling fails to recognise that this will create a new, albeit smaller, market for the embryonic user, who will not be able to obtain repeat doses in the same way a hardened addict could and does. The drug barons would still be in business, but this time more

viciously in pursuit of a shrinking "client" base.

Consequently, whilst the "corner shop" supplier is not the answer, a relaxed system, such as that used by the needle exchange, would be ideal. It's got to be all or nothing. Part legalisation will create its own, perhaps worse, problems.

MICHAEL P WARD  
Chartered Insurance Practitioner  
Stockport, Cheshire

### Smeared by devolution

Sir: What will devolution do (Letters, 20 August)? It will make government more open, more accountable and more ready to listen to ordinary people. It is part of a process of reform long overdue in our political culture. We live in a state which is one of the most centralised and secretive in the world.

The "No" campaign has relied on innuendo and fear to bolster its case. It is completely within character that it refused to reveal the amount donated by the nonagenarian tax exile, Sir Julian Hodge ("Welsh rivals squabble over campaign cash", 19 August). Over the next month the same tired smear about "cosy" and "break up of the UK" will be trotted out.

The real issues, however, are about openness and accountability in government. In 1990, after the fall of the Communist regime, Vaclav Havel proclaimed to the Czech people "your government has returned to you". On 18 September the people of Wales have the opportunity to make that happen here.

Fr PHILIP DIXON  
Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan

### Bright future of Britannia'

Sir: In the early Fifties the future for Britain looked bright. It could hardly be otherwise, considering the terrible previous decade. There was a purposeful advance in commerce and industry and of course shipbuilding. In particular the building of *Britannia* on the Clyde was a fine example of British maritime excellence. She was new, state-of-the-art and filled with purpose - a symbol of a bright future for her country and a new, young monarch.

But what now? The future, the confidence, the uncertainty all muddled and clouded. What good could come out of her now? What symbolic gesture could she make? Will she be scrapped? Will she be added to all the other attractions at Greenwich or Portsmouth?

Or could *Britannia* be responsible for the creation of 600 jobs, the resurrection and security of a listed dry-dock, the regeneration of a run-down and depressed area, the creation of a Maritime Heritage Centre and a magnificent return to the Clyde, where she was built, to be one of Britain's finest examples of symbolic maritime engineering to be maintained in perpetuity for the benefit of future generations? I think so.

PETER MINSHALL  
Glasgow

### Stranded in Stranraer

Sir: The fact that Paul Valley's substitute coach service from Dumfries arrived at Stranraer half an hour before his (just) missed rail connection from Carlisle ("A Journey around the Whole Island of Great Britain", 15 August) is a sad reminder of one of the less than far-sighted acts of the Beeching era.

The 54-mile long direct rail link between Dumfries and Stranraer via Castle Douglas and Newton Stewart (the so-called "Port Road") was closed in June 1965, and, as Paul Valley intimated, rail travellers from the south have to follow a 135-mile long diversion through Kilmarnock and Ayr.

TONY ROSS  
Cottingham, East Yorkshire

### History of stars and stripes

Sir: Trevor Phillips ("The Union Flag has had its day in the sun", 16 August) claims the Union Flag is junior to Old Glory. True, the first American flag (1777) appeared 24 years before the current Union Flag (1801). However, that is not to compare like with like.

The first version of the Union Flag appeared in 1606, the cross of St Patrick being added in 1801. The first version of the American flag displayed just 13 stars in the canton, probably in a circle. As more states joined, the number of stripes and stars increased. In 1818 the flag reverted to 13 stripes. The current version dates from 1960, when Hawaii became the 50th state.

GRAEME THORLEY  
Harrow, Middlesex

Sir: If Trevor Phillips wants to design and fly his own flag in the garden - like a lot of Americans - let him get on with it. As for myself, the flag is distinctive and colourful; quite nice really.

MARGARET BARNES  
Conwy, Gwynedd



15 JULY 1997

## the commentators

# Labour's slippery offering to the people of Scotland

**H**ow will you vote?" "Don't know yet." "You?" "Not sure." I heard – and had – the same conversation more times than I can now recall last weekend in Scotland, travelling from one side of the country to the other, meeting friends, family and strangers. The good news is that there is a debate going on about the biggest constitutional shake-up since 1707.

Less encouraging for the Scotland Forward campaigners is the degree of uncertainty among voters, while opponents of the proposed legislation are daring to look around, finding there are more of them than they thought.

So what's the problem? Is the electorate experiencing a form of pre-nuptial nerves – gazing into a devolved future with chilly apprehension, as the full force of the implications of going it alone strike home? Not exactly. The full implications are not available. By choosing to hold a referendum before, rather than after, the White Paper proposals have been debated in Parliament, the Government has short-changed the people of Scotland twice over.

First, the vital pith and detail of how a devolved Scotland's parliament and institutions will work is not being offered or discussed. Instead, the Government has sent out illustrated pamphlets which they claim will answer all possible queries.

They do not, as the unequivocally inconvenient member for Linlithgow, Tam Dalyell, demonstrated to a packed public meeting in Perth this week.

He selected a detail in the pamphlet with significant implications for the majority of voters in Scotland – under a devolved tax system, savings and dividends will not be affected". What exactly does that mean, Dalyell asked? What about rental income from an investment property? What about personal pensions or annuity schemes? What about a widow's income from the trust fund established by her husband to ensure lifelong security?

These questions hardly resonate beside the intoxicating "Who's like us?" rhetoric of younger and louder campaigners, but they represent the kind of hurs and thorns that may soon impede the smooth progress of legislation introduced on the dubious mandate of a putative Yes-Yes vote on 11 September.

Tam Dalyell's own resistance to devolution is well recorded. From his dissident position, he now campaigns for a new dispensation that will endure and last. If it must be, he argues, let it be good. If it is not good and not seen to be good, he says, frustration with a poor parliament will lead straight to the slippery slope to full independence that Labour's strange new bed-mate, the Scottish National Party, devoutly hopes for and quietly expects. But the detail he asks for will not be forthcoming before the referendum vote. The Government's focus is now on achieving its desired Yes-Yes vote. And therein lies the second betrayal of respect for and trust in the people of Scotland.

Instead of considered policy proposals, hammered out on the anvil of parliamentary scrutiny, voters are being offered the kind of propaganda campaign that Labour has proved itself so adept at mounting. So the Scottish Sec-



**Sheena McDonald**  
Omitting detail is a kind of deceit. It represents a lack of trust in the voters that encourages reciprocal mistrust

Paper Scotland's Parliament will be introduced on the back of the referendum result "made", is well-founded.

Omitting detail is a kind of deceit. However worthy the cause, it represents a lack of trust in the voters that encourages reciprocal mistrust. To embark on the greatest shift in the governance of the United Kingdom without a whole-hearted accord between government and the people hints at albatross days ahead. Mutual trust must be the order of the day. So, when the member for Redruth West is suspended for, among other sins, working with a known opponent of the Labour Party on the same day that Mr Dewar shares a Yes-Yes campaign launch platform with the leader of the Scottish National Party, the voters of Scotland can be forgiven for raising an eyebrow.

For long-standing home rule supporters, the abandonment of the late John Smith's commitment to devolution by the introduction of a referendum was seen as a betrayal. In fact, winning the support of the people via a referendum may well be the best way of testing the "settled will" of the people of Scotland.

But asking the voters to support untested proposals – an exercise unprecedented among the civilised Western democracies – smacks of the kind of manipulation that this Government practised so effectively in opposition. And reducing the debate to the level of simplistic photo opportunities and, worse, a black-and-white, tory-bashing duel of slogans, risks promoting apathy in the short term, and disillusion thereafter.

How am I going to vote? I don't know yet. And this campaign is not helping me to decide.

# Cumbria's farmers have the Belgian Blues

## A JOURNEY AROUND THE WHOLE ISLAND OF GREAT BRITAIN



WITH PAUL VALLEY

"What was wrong with my scones?" Mrs Rowson asked. Perhaps there wasn't enough cheese in them, her friend suggested. Mrs Rowson looked so forlorn that I ventured to chip in. "I prefer them without too much cheese," I confided. Mrs Rowson looked grateful in a passing sort of way, but she was unconvinced.

Welcome to the Cockerham Agricultural Show. I had come a long way in a few days, from a community of prosperity among Ulster's well-to-do via a more abject experience among the homeless on the streets of Edinburgh. But this was something else. The bus journey from Carlisle seemed to transport me into the past – and a world of innocence, drop scones and lemon cheese.

Here, achievement was measured with red roses and highly commended for everything from bantams to Belted Galloways. The categories showed respect for proper fruitcake, gingerbread, Viennese fingers and butterfly cakes (four to be submitted). Deference was paid to skill in cross-stitch, crochet and petit point. There were prizes for a knitted garment for a baby, the best thimble – and, for children, handwriting, the arrangement of flowers in a saucer and the decoration of two digestive biscuits.

If the categories speak of the past, it is not the era in which the show was founded. Then, almost 150 years ago, was the time when agriculture became an industry rather than a way of life. In 1849 there was a prize for the Best Hired Man (and wife) and another for the farm worker with the most children who had not resorted to the poverty house.

On the horizon lowered the black hills which mark the edge of the Lake District, so tall that the clouds

seemed to rest upon them, masking hidden places, beckoning like a foreign country. Here in the main ring, between the hired marqueses, John Hall had finished judging the Belgian Blues. He lingered to watch the next judge reach his verdict on the Best in Show in all cattle categories.

The farmer was only 54, but his face was weathered like red granite.

He explained to me the basis of show judging: "A dairy cow wants

sharp features, good top lines, good locomotion and the right teat placement.

With a Charolais or Simmental, you look for medium conformation, not extreme in the muscling,

though a Belgian Blue should show off individual muscles like a weightlifter," he said. It did not seem profitable to probe all this too closely. The judge in the ring had made his decision. "He's gone for the cow, I would have, too."

Patches of sawdust littered the rough grass of the wide field, marking the spots where the Limousins, Herefords, fell ponies, show jumpers and heavy working horses had performed en route. Beside the road, vintage engines and tractors chugged idly. In the "industrial" tent, which mysteriously included the WTS damson jam and home baking sale, an ecological furniture maker named Danny Frost was exhibiting fine bowls, tables and dressers made from wind-blown elm and cherry trees. "Please touch," said the counter-cultural notice beside his display.

Now there were three activities in the main ring. A sheepdog was herding geese in one corner. Fox terriers were parading in another. And in a third the burly man-mountain Alf Harrington was calling out the Cumbrian and Westmorland wrestlers.

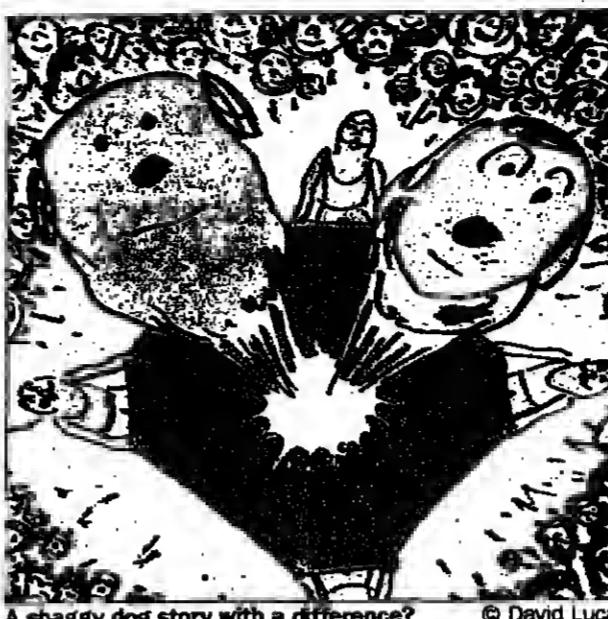
This ancient sport can trace its ori-

gins back four millennia. To the outsider it looks like Sumo wrestling for slimmers – all sudden falls, nifty trips and posture-striking. After nearly dying out in the Sixties, it is making a comeback. "Fifty years ago a wrestler could earn a week's wages in a bout. Today we play for the same money," said Alf. But there were heartening numbers of under-12s in the ring. "It's still a community sport – friendly, like," said Alf, with what I would have romantically described as a farmer's burr, except that he is an accountant. "But it's in the blood, you see."

John Hall courteously invited me to lunch in the judges' tent. Inside they were farmers to man. They were tightening the slurry regulations, I learn at a trestle of cold meats, salad and tea-time fancies. Soon it would be as bad as Holland. It was terrible getting a herdman these days, they wanted £18,000 to £20,000, almost double the old rates. No one was doing agriculture at college now; it was all equestrianism and leisure. "For thinking about early retirement," said one robust fellow in his forties.

Was he joking, I asked John Hall. Sadly, no. "Most farmers have an average working week of 70 hours – 10 hours a day, seven days a week. During calving we're up all night and catch a couple of hours' sleep in the afternoon. Yet the return on capital is now only between 1 and 2 per cent. You can have a million-pound farm and not make £20,000 a year."

The moaning farmer is a popular stereotype. But it has, said John Hall, gone beyond that. "Farming is caught in the pressures between the consumer, the taxpayer and the bureaucrat. BSE is only a metaphor for what was happening anyway. The public today want cheaper food, and then



A shaggy dog story with a difference? © David Lucas

The characters in Ted Hughes's new children's book have a high old time ... what can it all mean?

john walsh

predator or a dead pig. Shaggy and Spotty aren't like that, however. They are not out to sink their fangs into anyone, to rip out organs or gouge out eyes. They are merely little doggies who like going on carousels ... or are they? Only someone blind to the subtleties of Hughes's dark internal landscape could ignore the fact that this supposedly harmless work is suffused with references to drugs, homosexuality, satyriasis and death.

The first thing they hear at the fairground is "The boomerang voice: 'Roll up, roll up!' and the music, the music, the music". Beyond this invitation to take hasty seats listening to "sounds", what they really want, says Hughes shamelessly, is "a ride" on the "roundabout". We all know Hughes's friend Thom Gunn's poem comparing gay sex to a see-saw ride. But this ... "Faster and faster they go," we're told, "until whoosh, WHOOSH" – Joyce himself would hesitate about such organic frankness.

There follows a repetitive theme of flying up in the sky and falling down to earth – a clear invitation to try "uppers" and "downers" – along with references to harder drugs ("the dogs shoot up up up"). As for the four strong men who jerk the dogs into the sky, the less said the better. The dogs end up flying (to comment would surely be otiose), and narrowly miss being shot by the "farmer", a wholly bogus authority figure who instead gives them "a big bone". I confess I ended this farago of coded salacity full of concern for the state of Mr Hughes's moral health. Pray God it doesn't fall into the hands of impressionable children. Or dogs.

Shaggy and Spotty are not, as you might imagine, to be a pair of hip-hop proponents living in Bristol. They are two dogs of strikingly unprepossessing appearance and a fondness for funfairs, and they're the latest creation (published in November) to come from the magic pen of Ted Hughes, the poet laureate. Possibly because of Mr Hughes's tragic past (the suicide of his wife, Sylvia Plath), possibly due to his thunderous roar and saturnine demeanour, possibly because of the barking peculiarity of his studies of Shakespeare and folklore, but mostly because of the feral nature of his adult subject matter, there's always been something a little sinister about Hughes's writings for kids, as if anything he creates, however innocent or cuddlesome it seems, might turn at any moment into a carrion crow, a slavering

very well for the others (Ronnie Wood just gets more and more like the "Celeb" cartoon in Private Eye, Jagger trots out his skinny white T-shirts and his schoolboy grin, while Keith Richards, Marlboro permanently clamped to lower lip – well, pretty soon, you'll look up the word "incorrigible" in the Concise Oxford and find a photo of Keith instead of a definition), but Charlie just isn't wearing it well. That hand, snaking uncertainly into the pocket of his double-breasted suit, says it all. He's staring to resemble a diffident politician-turned-statesman, a Clement Attlee in the Lords, a national icon who's desperate to retire but isn't allowed to.

Or am I thinking of another figure, on whose face you see the same look every year, that says: "Yes, this is quite nice, but do I have to do it again and again for ever?" Charlie Watts – the Queen Mum of rock'n'roll.



HRH Charlie Watts

What is to become of Charlie Watts? Look

at the photographs of the Rolling Stones under Brooklyn Bridge, launching their newest world tour, and you're looking at a desperate man. That line of Mick Jagger's about rock'n'roll

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# business & city

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FINANCIAL JOURNAL  
OF THE YEAR

## Regulator backs down on electricity price cuts

**Chris Godsmark**  
Business Correspondent

The fall in electricity bills next year looks set to be much smaller than previously predicted, after the industry regulator yesterday softened his prior control proposals in the face of intense criticism from electricity companies.

Professor Stephen Littlechild said domestic charges could drop by between £15 and £25 over the two years from next April, a fall of 7.5-10 per cent on an average £270 bill excluding VAT. The new proposals compared with a forecast cut of 12 per cent in his previous consultation paper last month, worth £32 off bills in just one year and more over two years.

The climbdown followed claims by the regional electricity companies (RECs) that the price controls would plunge their supply businesses into the red, discouraging new entrants into the market when domestic competition is introduced from April 1998. Some RECs had threatened to take the dispute

to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, a move which could have delayed competition.

Professor Littlechild said he had accepted the RECs' claim that introducing competition would mean higher administrative costs, with the likelihood of a much larger volume of customer queries. But he launched a defence of the competition experiment, insisting it would mean bigger savings in the long term. "You can't deliver what you can deliver from competition," he said.

He claimed the new plans had probably averted the possibility of an MMC referral by the companies. "I don't think there's a justifiable basis for a company to go to the MMC. If it did, we've got a good case."

The price proposals related to the RECs supply businesses, including administrative and billing systems, which account for about 7 per cent of domestic bills. The RECs' distribution divisions, responsible for 30 per cent of bills and most of their profits, are already subject to tough price cuts.

pay just £1 towards the cost.

Consumer groups gave the proposals a cautious welcome, despite the prospect of smaller cuts in charges. Ken Prior, from the Electricity Consumers' Committees, said: "It's a pragmatic solution. On this basis competition will happen."

The biggest change in the fifth consultation document yesterday was in Offer's projections for generation costs, which account for almost 60 per cent of bills and are not price regulated.

The plans suggest a drop of 6-10 per cent in generating costs next year, largely because high price coal contracts expire from April. The previous proposals envisaged reductions of up to 12 per cent, with big cuts in the profit margin earned by the generators over the price in the wholesale power market, the Electricity Pool.

The cost of competition, which covers the introduction of complex new computer systems to track customers as they switch supplier, will now be £2.60 a year for each household, or 1 per cent of bills, a figure included in the overall estimate for bills. Offer's original projection was for customers to gain 35p to 761.5p.

Other electricity company shares also rose, with Southern Electric, the last remaining independently quoted REC, adding 7p to 461p and Scottish Power rising 11p to 431.5p.

Simon Flowers, head of utility research at NatWest Securities, said: "The reductions in consumer bills will now largely come from the reductions in the coal contracts which were going to happen anyway next year, rather than the regulator forcing down contract prices between the generators and the RECs."

The latest proposals have added to the gloom for RJB Mining, the company which bought most British Coal pits at privatisation and this week announced the closure of the UK's newest mine.

Potential cuts in electricity bills 1998-99*			
Company	Generating costs	Non-generating costs	Total
Eastern	9.6%	0.5%	6.3%
East Midlands	7.7%	1.5%	5.3%
London	7.9%	0.8%	4.9%
Mersey	7.8%	1.3%	4.9%
Midlands	8.5%	1.7%	5.9%
Northern	8.3%	1.3%	5.2%
Northumbrian	8.0%	2.4%	5.6%
Seaboard	6.8%	0.5%	4.2%
Southern	8.4%	0.8%	5.3%
Swalec	8.2%	2.8%	5.3%
South Western	7.5%	2.3%	5.2%
Yorkshire	7.2%	0.3%	4.5%
ScottishPower	7.2%	+3.8%	2.7%
Hydro-Electric	9.4%	7.8%	3.3%
Average England & Wales	8.0%	1.4%	5.3%
Average Scotland	8.3%	1.4%	5.0%
Average GB	8.0%	0.2%	4.8%

(\*based on an average 8 per cent reduction in generating costs)



In the teeth of the City: A lone construction worker makes his way up the concrete and steel emergency stairwell of the new UK headquarters for the Dutch bank ABN-Amro in Spitalfields, London

Photograph: Greg Bous/Reuters

## High street boom renews rate fears

**Tom Stevenson**  
Financial Editor

High street sales are growing faster than at any time since the economic boom of the late 1980s, official figures showed yesterday. An unexpectedly large jump in retail sales growth stoked fears that interest rates might have to rise again, but economists cautioned that the figures were nothing like as alarming as they appeared at first sight.

According to the Office of National Statistics, retail sales growth hit 6.5 per cent last month, up from 5.6 per cent in June and higher than expectations in the City of around 5.9 per cent.

The surge in spending was driven by building society windfalls, which sent sales of household goods to a record high, but

there was evidence that the conversion boom peaked in June and was falling away quite rapidly.

Sales of household goods, which include big ticket items such as domestic and electrical appliances, rose 7.4 per cent in the three months to July, compared to the previous quarter, the highest growth since 1986. On an annualised basis, sales were 15.8 per cent higher, indicating the extent to which windfalls have found their way onto the high street.

But Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, played down fears that inflationary pressures were building in the economy. He said strong retail sales were no surprise and competition on the high street was keeping prices down.

He added: "It was entirely expected. We know there is a lot

of windfall money being paid out... so we budgeted for this and the market was also expecting it."

People were also saving some of their windfalls, Mr Robinson continued. "At present, people are having a good time, they're enjoying themselves, they're also saving a lot of it so the situation is that for the moment it's as we expected it and we will review it as the situation develops."

He was speaking after figures from the Building Societies Association showed savers had deposited a record amount of cash into societies.

The association said the influx of £1.85bn was due to carthaginians seeking a conversion windfall, combined with investors looking for a good interest rate.

The sales figures came a day

after an economist warned that the economy was in danger of repeating the boom-bust cycle of the late 1980s as a European Commission survey showed consumer confidence was back at the record levels of 1987.

Ben Sanderson, of Nottingham Trent University, said: "Consumers are showing uncertainty parallels with their behaviour during the Lawson boom."

City economists were divided

on whether the figures meant interest rate rises were more likely. David Bloom, at HSBC James Capel, said: "It is impossible to believe the Bank will be comfortable with annual retail sales running at 6.5 per cent, the highest level since July 1988 and the highest in the world at present."

He said this month's lower-than-expected 0.3 per cent rise

was not a sign of a slowdown but an indication that the economy was tailing off before enjoying another surge. "If this month's rise is such a soft patch, one quakes in anticipation when sales actually restart their powerful monthly trend."

Simon Briscoe, of Nikko Europe, said this backed up last week's Bank of England warning that there was an "upsurge" of windfall-related spending halved last month, an estimate from the Office of National Statistics showed.

Economists said a reduction in windfall spending in July to £100m from June's £200m showed the consumer boom was flagging as quickly as it blew up in the first half of the year.

They believe further cash may trickle into the shops through the autumn, but say the apparent need to jack up in-

## Surge in windfall spending to become a trickle by autumn

**Tom Stevenson**  
Financial Editor

Interest rates to dampen demand is now less urgent.

Clive Vaughan, at the retail consultant Verdict, said: "The surge that came through, particularly in June, does seem to be a bit calmer now. But we could still see some windfall spending filtering through until the beginning of next year."

The latest retail sales data showed growth up 0.3 per cent in July after a 0.8 per cent rise in May and a 1.2 per cent increase in June.

Analysts attributed the surge in retail sales in May and June to higher spending financed by windfall cash, which mostly went on large household items.

A survey of households conducted by consumer research group Mintel and investment bank Robert Fleming and pub-

lished this week concluded that less than 25 per cent of the cash had been spent with nearly 77 per cent saved or used to repay debt. That would amount to £3.2bn of extra spending power this year.

Peter Warburton, economic adviser at Robert Fleming Securities, said the latest figures chimed with his firm's survey, which was published earlier in the week. The surge in consumer confidence, which has occurred during the past six months as these windfall payments have been eagerly awaited, is likely to be reversed quite rapidly this autumn."

Mr Vaughan said there was little evidence the large payouts had permanently affected consumers' spending habits.

## Thailand seeks extra \$3bn to stave off crisis

**Tom Stevenson**  
Financial Editor

forced to devalue its currency after persistent attacks by speculators in the foreign exchange markets.

Several South-east Asian currencies have fallen victim to speculation in recent months, with the Hong Kong dollar's peg to the US dollar coming under fire most recently.

The BIS is a global centre for co-operation among central bankers and provides a wide array of financial services to these banks. This includes short-term bridge financing in the event that a country is facing a liquidity crunch.

In 1995 the BIS arranged for a \$10bn short-term facility for Mexico as part of an international package that included \$20bn from the United States and \$17.5bn from the IMF.

Officials said Thailand's recourse to the BIS was an indication it may have difficulty keeping its international reserves above a \$23bn level prescribed by the IMF. Those worries kept downward pressure on the baht, which has lost more than 20 per cent of its value since it was floated on 2 July. Thailand has foreign debt of nearly \$89bn, around half of which is held by Japanese banks.

## Cockburn walks out early

**Nigel Cope**  
City Correspondent

Bill Cockburn, the WH Smith chief executive whose shock decision to quit the ailing retailer was announced in June, has already left the business. Mr Cockburn was supposed to remain at the company until October, when he joins BT as head of its domestic operations. But Mr Cockburn left at the beginning of August. He was entitled to a full month of holiday but will not return during September.

Insiders say the absence of a chief executive, even one who is about to leave, has left the

## Casino chief stays quiet on writ

**Nigel Cope**

The company will not make an announcement about Mr Cockburn's replacement at its full-year results meeting next Wednesday. However, it is thought the successful candidate will be named next month.

Insiders are expecting an internal appointment. They say Alan Giles, head of the Waterstones books business, has emerged as a late front runner ahead of finance director Keith Hammill. The other internal candidates are Richard Handover, who runs WH Smith's news distribution business, and John Hancock, head of the group's American operations.

Capital Corporation said Mr Thompson and the other two employees cited in the writ would be making a "serious mistake" if they made any further allegations. Mr Thompson, Des Pereira, the former company secretary, and Guy Hutchinson, the former head of purchasing for the food and beverage operations, are accused in the writ of bringing the company into dispute and spreading damaging allegations about the business to the press.

The three men have seven days to receive the posted writ and a further 14 to acknowledge it. Capital Corporation can

then file a detailed statement of claim. Mr Pereira, Mr Thompson and Mr Hutchinson then have 14 days to offer their defence though it is likely their lawyers will ask for more time.

It is understood Mr Thompson has already incurred substantial legal fees relating to his time as a director of the company. Capital is seeking damages, the return of all confidential information and an injunction preventing further disclosures. It claims that "the selective use" of papers in the press has created a "false and misleading" impression as to the true value of the business.

That would widen the geographic spread of assistance for Thailand, which has so far included contributions from countries in the Asia-Pacific region as well as the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

The IMF was meeting yesterday in Washington to approve its own \$4bn contribution. The package is designed to bail out Thailand, which was

STOCK MARKETS									
<b>FTSE 100</b>							<b>Dow Jones</b>		
1914.20	+79.20	+1.6	5086.80	4056.60	3.36				
4680.80	+16.80	+0.4	4729.40	4386.20	3.55				
2373.10	+32.50	+1.4	2438.00	2017.90	3.40				
2239.74	+11.11	+0.5	2374.20	2178.29	3.21				
2317.83	+30.43	+1.3	2376.39	1989.78	3.39				
New York	7918.10	+14.74	+1.5	8259.31	5032.94	1.69			
Tokyo	18951.00	-80.10	-0.4	20681.07	17303.85	0.81			
Hong Kong	15477.25	-519.82	-3.8	16673.27	12065.17	2.79			
Frankfurt	4168.02	+61.02	+2.2	4438.93	2848.77	1.36			
Source: FT Information									

INTEREST RATES									



## COMMENT

If the incumbent supplier remains untouched by competition, the consumer will suffer over the longer term. It's worth paying a short-term price for the introduction of competition, is basically the argument'

## Customers pay cost of electricity competition

**Professor Stephen Littlechild**, the electricity regulator, has become a master of the U-turn. In his first review of electricity distribution charges three years ago, he got it so hopelessly wrong that he was forced into a complete re-review. Even then he failed fully to appreciate the scope regional electricity companies have for cash generation and was much kinder to them than he might have been.

Perhaps stung by this experience, Prof this time went too far in the other direction and is now being forced to backtrack on the price restraints to be applied in the competitive supply market from April 1998. He'd hoped these new curbs would help cut bills by £30 next year. After screams of protest from the RECs, he's settled for a more modest £15 to £25, depending on where you live.

The main justification for this climb-down seems to be that Professor Littlechild underestimated the costs of introducing competition. Quite a paradox, this, since if competition carries a cost to consumers, you have to wonder what its purpose is. All the same there is something in the argument that if price controls are too onerous, they will act as a deterrent to newcomers. If the incumbent supplier remains untouched by competition, the consumer will suffer over the longer term. It's worth paying a short-term price for the introduction of competition, is basically the argument.

The only problem is that the part of an electricity bill being opened to competition

is actually only 7 per cent of the total. Most of the cuts in bills next year are going to happen anyway because of new, cheaper coal contracts and the Prof's existing distribution price controls. In fact bills would have gone down further in the short term but for the introduction of competition.

The electricity regulator has also abandoned his attempt to introduce price controls on the generators via the back door – one of the elements that made up the more ambitious £30 cut in bills he originally proposed. His first set of proposals attempted to curb the premium generators can charge over the pool price. That's now gone.

So who's got the better end of the deal – the consumer or the shareholder? This is one of those cases where we will all have to just wait and see. The Prof may be right that competition will eventually bring significant benefits but it does take something of a leap of faith. So far the newcomers have hardly been battering the doors down in their scramble to enter the market. Only Centrica has so far declared a serious interest. The real test is whether the BPs, Tesco's and Sainsbury's are going to join the fray.

### BG's howls of protest were over nothing

Could British Gas really be so brazen as to announce a £1bn to £2bn share buy-back with its interim results next month? Af-

ter all the carping about how the regulator's new price controls were going to destroy the company, such a move would seem a hit of a cheek. "Only kidding," BG would in effect be saying about all those bowls of pain so vocally expressed over the last year. After such an about turn, could anyone take what it says seriously ever again?

Actually the shares have been indicating for some little while now that things at BG are not nearly as bad as the company was saying during its attempt to water down the regulator's proposals. The shares kept on rising strongly right through publication of the Monopolies & Mergers Commission report which largely backed Clare Spottiswoode's demands. Many analysts are saying they have further to go.

Now along comes Simon Flowers of NatWest Securities, and others, to say the balance sheet would be easily capable of taking on an extra £2bn to £3bn of debt. Factor in the £513m BG has to pay for the windfall profit tax and that would leave anything up to £2.5bn for buy-backs or special dividends. It would also leave BG with debt gearing of well over 150 per cent, but as Mr Flowers points out, that's nothing exceptional for a utility with long life assets. Moreover, cash interest cover would remain comfortably above 6 times for the foreseeable future, which compares favourably with many other utilities.

So just what was BG complaining about when it challenged Ms Spottiswoode

through the MMC? To be fair, there's a world of difference between the effect of tough new controls on revenue generation and reshaping the balance sheet by swapping equity for debt. For the time being, debt comes cheaper than equity so this might seem a sensible thing for BG to do. Most people won't see it that way, however. To them the act of returning a couple of billion to shareholders is strong evidence that, far from being too tough on BG, the regulator wasn't nearly tough enough.

Despite all this, if BG can afford to do it, it probably should. Lord knows, the company has had to weather worse publicity than a share buy-back is likely to generate. After the traumas of the past few years, long-suffering shareholders deserve a bonus.

It all chimes pretty well with a survey this week from Robert Fleming which estimated only a quarter of the £35bn of bandits would actually be spent. One forecast predicts the windfall boost to consumption could be as little as just 0.25 per cent this year, far less than most have expected.

Of course, the real picture is impossible to predict as no-one knows how much of their new-found dividend income former members of the mutuals will choose to spend, or how their spending patterns will change in the long term because they feel richer with a share certificate in the top drawer.

On balance, however, the Bank's monetary policy committee appears to have got it about right. It jacked up rates to the level Ken Clarke would or should have if he hadn't had an eye on the election. Now it is, rightly, trying some calm reflection.



Responsibility for digital broadcasting is awkwardly split between the regulators Don Cruickshank and Robin Biggam and ministers Chris Smith and Margaret Beckett

## Watchdogs do battle for digital TV

The industry has welcomed Ofcom in principle. But Oftel and the ITC are resisting merger, writes **Cathy Newman**

The Government is pressing ahead with plans to create a super-regulator for the communications industry. The move will intensify the battle between Don Cruickshank, director-general of Ofcom, the telecoms regulator, and the Independent Television Commission (ITC), the television watchdog lead by Sir Robin Biggam.

The Department of Trade and Industry is to issue a consultation document in the autumn, asking for comments on its proposals to form a joint broadcast and telecoms regulator, provisionally entitled Ofcom.

A DTI spokesman said the department was liaising with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). He said: "The Government is committed to having a look at this issue due to the convergence of the telecoms and broadcasting industries. A document will be going out to the industry and interested parties for consultation in the autumn."

The idea of merging Oftel and the ITC to form Ofcom was first mooted two years ago. Although the details have not been fleshed out, there is a growing conviction in the industry that present regulatory

arrangements are ill-equipped for the convergence of telecoms companies and broadcasters.

For example, the ban which prevents BT from broadcasting is likely to be lifted within months. BT is also indirectly involved with broadcasting through its stake in British Interactive Broadcasting, the interactive television service.

If the ITC and Oftel do merge, the burning question is which will come out on top?

Their most recent – and most public – spat occurred after the ITC awarded three digital terrestrial television licences to British Digital Broadcasting (BSkyB) was forced to pull out of the consortium – now jointly owned by Carlton Communications and Granada Group – after competition worries. But the satellite broadcaster secured a long-term programme supply deal with BDB. Mr Cruickshank issued a strongly worded statement criticising the ITC's decision, saying BSkyB's programming deal still "raised substantial competition concerns".

Mr Cruickshank's intervention illustrated the problem caused by the blurring of the two watchdogs' roles. Before digital television reared its head Oftel and the ITC had clearly separate functions. The ITC was charged with ensuring fair and effective competition in the television industry, while making certain broadcasters provided a wide range of services.

Oftel was to look after "traffic over networks" and control "access to these networks". At the moment, regulation of digital broadcasting is awkwardly split between the two bodies. The ITC had, for example, hoped to regulate conditional access, the encryption technology used to decode digital television signals. But Oftel was given responsibility for conditional access in the 1996 Broadcasting Act. The recent decision that interactive services should also come under Oftel's remit has increased the watchdog's power in this field.

Although the ITC has taken the initiative with its extended

consultation on the "bundling" of cable and satellite channels, it has been forced to share with Oftel control over electronic programme guides (EPGs), which will enable consumers to navigate digital television channels.

Scorpio industry figures are virtually unanimous in their belief that, if a super-regulator is created, Oftel is in a better position to take the leading role. One senior television executive delivered an acerbic judgement of the ITC, saying: "They have consistently proved themselves to be inconsistent. The DCMS does not hold the ITC in particularly high regard."

City analysts agreed. Derek Terrington, media analyst at Teather & Greenwood, said:

"Oftel has the greater status and the technological spin on everything. The ITC, which seems to become more archaic day by day, has surely got a shrinking remit".

The warning watchdogs are unlikely to thank the Government if it decides to throw them into bed together. The blueprint for the communications regulator may also

have to wait until after Labour's new competition Bill is passed. The Bill, drafted by Mrs Beckett earlier this month, may make some of the duties of Oftel and the ITC redundant.

The Government needs to answer a whole host of questions before Ofcom becomes official. There is still doubt whether Oftel would cover radio. Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, has indicated that the radio industry, currently regulated by the Radio Authority, would be better served by a separate regulator.

Neither the DTI nor the DCMS will be short of advice on which media should come under Ofcom's jurisdiction. Interested parties have already written many column inches on the subject. Benet Middleton, principal policy researcher at the Consumers' Association, published a paper in June saying a single communications regulator should merge "many of the functions" of the ITC and Oftel, but added that the new body should also cover the BBC and the Post Office. Mr Middleton is to expand on his initial theories next month. The ITC is also preparing a response to Mr Middleton's points.

Newspaper Rupert Murdoch's media conglomerate, disappointed the Australian market after posting lower than expected results for the year to June. But the company softened the blow by announcing a good performance of some of its key UK and US operations and its intentions to buy back some of its preferred voting stock. One analyst said the results were "very disappointing".

The company reported a 2.5 per cent rise in underlying net profits to £31.295bn (£602m). UK newspapers such as *The Times* exceeded expectations, but the HarperCollins publishing division reported an abnormal loss of £557m because of restructuring costs.

### Ionica customer base grows

Ionica Group notched up almost 10,000 extra customers in the three months to the end of June, the company said yesterday. Its customer base rose to 24,595 at the end of June from 15,832 at the end of March. The company, floated last month on the London Stock Exchange and on Nasdaq, said customers in the Eastern region grew to 19,957 from 15,323 while Midlands region customers grew to 4,595 from 509. Nigel Playford, chief executive, said: "The funding we raised last month has given us financial stability and allows us to plan for the future with confidence."

### 600 Group dampens interim expectations

The 600 Group warned yesterday that profits in the first half would be unlikely to match the "exceptional levels" of the first half of last year. The company said its total order intake during the first quarter was broadly similar to last year, with a growing order book for second-half delivery. A reduced order intake at the company's UK manufacturers was compensated for "to a significant extent" by increased orders in the overseas business, the company said.

## Carpetbaggers flock to B&B

**John Wilcock**

Bradford & Bingley, Britain's second-biggest building society, enjoyed an inflow of £83m in retail savings during the first half of the year, partly due to carpetbaggers opening accounts in the hope of a windfall.

"There has been a lot of carpetbagging activity," said the society's finance director, John Smith, yesterday as it unveiled half-year pre-tax profits of £47.7m, down from £52.7m last time.

"We were fairly confident the Nationwide Building Society vote [not to demutualise] would go the right way," said Mr Smith, stressing Bradford & Bingley was as strongly opposed to conversion to plc status as ever.

Societies such as Bradford & Bingley have been besieged this year by people opening new accounts in the hope of receiving windfall payments when the society converts to bank status.

Mr Smith said the society had viewed this latest carpetbagging mania as a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to win new business".

He added that the society's loyalty scheme, begun last year to distribute a part of profits to

## Huntingdon shares dive on relisting

**Chris Godsmark**  
Business Correspondent

Huntingdon Life Sciences, the controversial drug testing company which faces the loss of its operating licence, saw its shares slump from 54p to 46.5p yesterday after they were relisted following their suspension late last month.

Huntingdon said at the beginning of the month that it was confident of completing changes demanded by the Home Office of practices relating to its treatment of animals.

The Government has threatened to revoke the group's licence to conduct experiments on animals, saying there had been "extremely serious" failings.

The company announced a first-half loss after tax of £308,000 at the beginning of the month, compared with a £2m profit last time. This was after the company incurred costs of £1.1m after disruption following the Home Office investigation into animal cruelty. A 6 per cent fall in sales during the first six months of the year to £34.5m was also partly blamed on such disruption. Ministers have threatened to withdraw Huntingdon's licence, with the loss of 1,400 jobs, unless it can satisfy 16 conditions by the end of November.

"The results show Bradford & Bingley going from strength to strength as a mutual," said the chief executive, Christopher Rodrigues. "We have reduced margins, increased benefits to members and importantly continued to bring down costs."

Mr Rodrigues said its lending margins, the difference between its mortgage and deposit rates, would continue to narrow.

## Centrica ends links with British Gas

its move to offices in Jeremy Street, which are much larger than Centrica's.

Property sources said Centrica was paying £42.50 per square foot for the 4,500 square feet of office space in deal worth £191,000 a year. The building, which has been refurbished for the new tenant and is considered to be "modern" in size, is owned by Great Portland Estates, the property group and has a lease likely to last for up to 15 years.

A spokesman for Centrica confirmed that the contacts had been signed and the company would take over the building in the autumn. "We have need of London workspace for directors and other staff who come to town. Our previous building was not really appropriate."

He said Roy Gardner, Centrica's chief executive, was unlikely to have a permanent office in the building, which would be used to hold meetings with other business contacts. "It's purely a base for people when they're in London. The executive offices are all in Charter Court in Slough," said the spokesman.

Estate agents are thought to still be seeking a new tenant to take over the Adelphi offices.

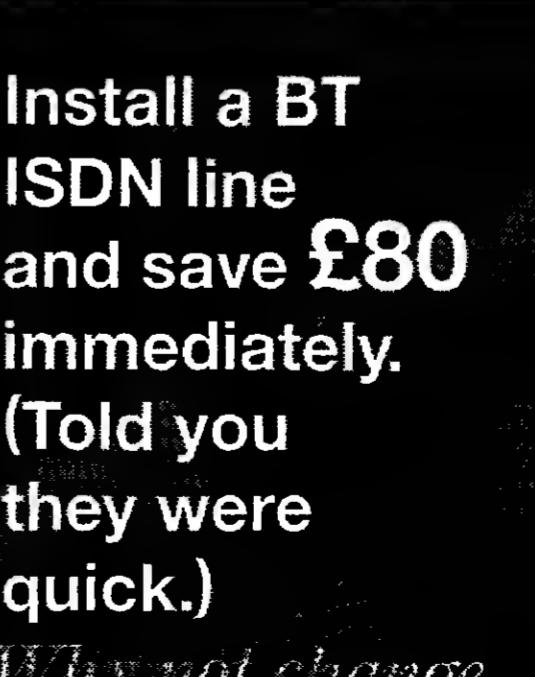
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# business

## BET saves the day for Rentokil

### THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

**I**t has taken Sir Clive Thompson, chief executive of Rentokil Initial, almost 18 months to admit what everyone always suspected – that without BET, the business services giant bought for £2.1bn in March last year, was risking failing to honour its self-imposed contract with the City to grow earnings by 20 per cent a year.

But while Sir Clive remains fixated on maintaining Rentokil's record – after its £14m currency hit, earnings growth for the half year to June scraped in at 20.3 per cent – the City has been more preoccupied with whether Rentokil deserves to keep its fancy rating following the BET buy.

Swallowing BET to compensate for a slowdown in growth in the old Rentokil businesses is all very well, but to do it Rentokil has had to take on lower-quality businesses. Compared with old Rentokil businesses like pest control and tropical plants which enjoy operating margins of over 30 per cent, BET has brought in a number of commodity-type operations – like back-end office cleaning – and highly cyclical and capital intensive activities like US plant hire and conference centres. It is right then that Rentokil's shares, which stood on a 65 per cent premium to the market before the BET bid, have been downgraded. Shares in the company have underperformed the stock market by 14 per cent over the last 12 months.

The question is whether the current rating, reflecting a market premium of about 30 per cent, is appropriate. Unfortunately these interim results offer little guidance. The results reflected a full contribution from BET against to two months last time. But Rentokil refused to spell out the BET results. The concerns are simple. What investors really want to know are what exactly are the sustainable growth prospects of this company. By how much are the old Rentokil businesses slowing? Are they growing at all? What about BET? On the one hand, Sir Clive admitted yesterday that Rentokil's UK pest control is mature. On the other, prospects for BET's electronic security operations, though a small part of the total, look positive. What is likely is that Sir Clive won't be able to meet his 20 per cent target for ever. Yes, there can be adjustments on investment levels here and there to bring the figures in line. But the City is expecting a bigger slowdown than just a per cent or two. What no one is clear about is whether Rentokil will slow down to 10 per cent earnings growth a year or 15 per cent. Let's not forget that Rentokil is a tightly managed business. It has good growth business, a dominant market position in areas like cleaning and hygiene and a great geographical spread. That means

the company is more likely to settle at 15 or 16 per cent annual growth than 10 per cent. In these low inflationary times, that is good. Rentokil probably does not deserve its fancy rating, but 21 times this year and 18 times 1998 on Merrill Lynch forecasts, looks fair.

### Weir presents a brighter picture

**W**eir Group, the Glasgow-based engineering company which specialises in businesses such as pump and valve production, may finally be on the turn after an extremely poor run.

Weir's shares have underperformed the FTSE All-Share Index by 44 per cent over the last five years as the group was hit by fierce competition from Swiss and German rivals which were prepared to take on low-return work.

The impact on margins and more recent concerns over sterling's strength has led to the City marking Weir's shares down. This seems harsh, as half of the group's turnover is manufactured abroad and large chunks of UK busi-

ness is in services rather than exports. Only about £100m of the group's UK sales are exported and the currency effect here is limited as the bulk is shipped to dollar markets rather than to France, Germany and Italy.

The City's view of the company perked up yesterday when Weir reported half-year profits well ahead of expectations at £27.8m, a 44 per cent increase. The group's shares surged 13.5p to 279.5p and analysts upgraded full-year forecasts by around £3m to £58m.

The half-year figures were flattered by a kind comparison with the first half last year which was affected by problems at the Devonport Dockyard, hit by a refitting programme, and Strachan & Henshaw, a materials handling subsidiary, which had contract problems.

The company is sticking to its policy of not taking on low-margin contracts and is finding that German competitors are starting to come back into line on prices. Weir's US order book is strong and the business is throwing off cash.

Net debt of £26m at the half-way stage last year has turned into a cash pile of nearly £10m this time around.

#### Rentokil Initial: At a glance

Market value: £6.74bn, share price 217.5p (+3p)

#### Five-year record 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998

Full year

Turnover (£m) 720 857 929 1,040 1,040

Pre-tax profits (£m) 177 215 318 135 194

Earnings per share (p) 5.85 7.1 8.56 1.92 2.74

Dividends per share (p) 1.73 2.1 2.53 0.74 0.89

#### Interim operating profit: £210.2m

Total group operating margin: 13.8%

Hygiene & Cleaning 8.4% Security 10.5% Property 19.5%

38.7% Margin 9% Margin 12.7%

Plant distribution 21.1% Personnel 5.8% Post control 15.7%

Margin 19.5% Margin 10.5% Margin 10.5%

Margin 12.7% Margin 12.7% Margin 12.7%

Margin

# market report / shares

Data Bank	
FTSE 100	+100
FTSE 350	+44.2
FTSE 250	+6.4
FTSE 74	+6.6
FTSE 350	+17.9
FTSE 100 VOLUME	5,711 shares
FTSE 100 bargains	1,011
FTSE index	1,042
FTSE 100	1,042

## Share spotlight

London Stock Exchange price, £ per share

ASON D F W M	14.2
ASON D F W M	14.2
ASON D F W M	14.2
ASON D F W M	14.2
ASON D F W M	14.2

## The digital factor could alter Granada's prospects

The stock market is wrong over Granada, believes the Dresdner Kleinwort Benson investment house.

In an upbeat session the leisure group could only manage to edge ahead 3p to 805.5p, well below the 978.5p high hit earlier this year.

DKB does not expect the price to reclaim its peak but suggests the shares should at least be around 940p. The securities group's calculations actually produce a figure of 991p but "we sense the market is in the mood to apply a discount".

It believes the value of Granada's 50 per cent involvement in British Digital Broadcasting is being overlooked.

An "impressive example of valuation creation" is worth, it says, £1.3m or 37p a share.

Say DKB: "What is clear to us is that whereas the investment community is by now used to adjusting the Granada rating to take account of its

significant but low-yielding stake in BskyB, adjustments for BDB should also be made to reflect its present value".

Granada has had an eventful time since last year's epic £3.9bn struggle for the Forte catering and hotel empire. Disposals have not come as quickly as expected and not all the businesses Granada intends to retain will remain for long at their present level.

The generators powered much of Footsie's charge. A climb down by the industry's regulator, with price-cut demands being sharply reduced, caused the excitement. With the generators cutting costs the projected 7.5 to 10 per cent should be comfortably accommodated. Such thinking sent National Power up 23p to 539.5p and PowerGen 35p to 761.5p. Scottish Power brightened 11p to 431.5p.

British Petroleum gushed a further 34p to 893p on its involvement in what could be a significant oil discovery of Angola. Estimates of the oil field's reserves vary from 500 million barrels to a remarkable 2 billion. BP has a near 17 per cent stake. BG added another 5p to 259p.

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch giant, encountered favourable analytical comment from Merrill Lynch and NatWest Securities; the shares rose 38.5p to 1,855p. NatWest said: "The earnings picture is looking very robust... the next change in numbers is more likely to be up than down".

Kingfisher hardened 7.5p to 742p as US investment house

## MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

Salomon Brothers put a 775p target on the shares; Boots, unchanged at 802.5p, was accorded an 875p valuation and Nestle off 12p to 772.5p, an 820p figure.

Financials and drugs had a firm session but engineers and other overseas earners were constrained by a relatively firm pound. GKN tumbled 45p to 1,192.5p and Siebe 28.5p to 1,096.5p. Glynnwood International gave up 9p to 239.5p. BTR's healthy revival came to an abrupt halt; the shares fell 8.5p to 210p on the suspicion the recovery had been overdone.

Cable & Wireless Communications fell 13p to 252.5p, a low, after Merrill Lynch seemed to struggle to place 8.9 million shares at 249p.

Huntington Life returned to market at 46.5p. The shares were suspended last month at 54p following worries over its controversial drug testing operations.

ML Laboratories, once at 468.5p, hardened 3.5p to 149p ahead of a meeting with institutional investors at Pammure Gordon today.

The Boosey & Hawkes music group, where takeover talks are on with at least four parties, jumped 165p to 1,062.5p. Viewwin, last year above 600p, fell 5p to 525p, a low. The company, providing online information systems for hotels, said last month it needed more cash and was "intensively" seeking further capital. At the last count Viewwin's service was being used in two hotels.

Other once high-flying stocks to have slumped into deep despair include Tadpole Technology and Bakyrchik. Tadpole, once reigning at above 400p, fell 5p to 9p and Bakyrchik, seeking gold in the former Soviet Union, was off 4.5p to 32.5p. In the past year it has swung from 589p to 15p.

## Taking Stock

□ Stockbroker Henry Cooke Lumsden make an intriguing case why shares of Golden Rose Communications shouldudge 300p. They closed 1p higher at 73p, pricing the company at approaching \$10.5m. According to analyst David Gorman a recent takeover deal puts a possible valuation of £29m on GRC's Jazz Radio franchises. The company, which is edging into catering, has cash of £2.9m. Mr Gorman says his calculations may be unsophisticated but GRC is "massively undervalued".

□ A shake-up at Chemical Design. Founder and majority shareholder Keith Davies becomes technical director with Nick Bateman, ex-Zeneca, replacing him as chief executive. John Lambert is the new finance director. The shares, placed at 110p, rose 5p to 165p.

## Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: \* Exchange rate. Ex-dividend date. Earnings at United Securities Market & Suspended pp. Party Paid pm. All Paid Shares. £ AM Stock. Source: FT Information

## The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from London Stock Exchange. Simply dial 0891 323 323, and when prompted to do so, enter the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0891 233 followed by one of the four digit codes below.

FTSE 100 – Real-time share prices by phone from London Stock Exchange. Simply dial 0891 323 323, and when prompted to do so, enter the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0891 233 followed by one of the four digit codes below.

UK Stock Market Report 00 04 Bullion Report 05 Water Shares 39

UK Company News 02 Wall Street Report 20 Electricity Shares 40

Foreign Exchange 01 Tokyo Market 21 High Street Banks 41

Anytime with a local telephone comes this service. For a detailed description of The Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 323 333.

For assistance, call our helpline 0171 673 4378 (500pm - 500pm). Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

## Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Variety	Stock	Variety	Stock	Variety	Stock	Variety
BTH	200000	BT	100000	Lutelsys	900000	WPP	750000
Petrol hole	140000	Scottish Pow	100000	National Grid	950000	Vodafone	770000
General Elec	130000	Shell Transport	60000	Norwich Union	700000	Carters	700000
National Pow	120000	Shell Reches	740000	Mayte TSB	500000	BBG	650000
				Royal & SunAust	600000	BBG	650000

## FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

Open 4954.7 up 405 11.00 4952.5 up 284 14.00 4951.0 up 389

Close 4954.7 up 325 12.00 4944.5 up 273 15.00 4957.4 up 432

10.00 4955.0 up 408 13.00 4952.1 up 336 Close 4955.1 up 442

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# This parallel economy could be a model for Tony Blair

The fearsome Alan Greenspan took over the US Federal Reserve 10 years ago this month, and it has been – if you believe *Fortune* magazine – “10 of the best years in the history of monetary policy”. Newsweek, meanwhile, has been praising US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin as “the best in memory”.

There are no two ways about it: although they look seriously at their sky-rocketing share index, many Americans really think they have finally got the economic problem licked.

It depends how you work it out of course. If you measure the gap between rich and poor children, for example, the USA would be 18th among 18 industrialised countries. Or carbon emissions, or energy consumption per head, or number of children killed by gunfire. Indicators – even the strictly economic ones – are particularly ambiguous when it comes to the US.

The strange thing about modern economics is the way abundance tends to rub shoulders with serious need. Mr Greenspan’s economy includes Bill Gates – who is \$18billion (\$11.25bn) richer than he was a year ago – as well as Memphis, where one in 23 households are bankrupt.

But the UK economy does the same. You can find empty hungry people in any British city, or desperate summer sales to get rid of surplus stock which remains beyond the pockets of most of the population. We have British inner cities packed with people who have time and skills available, surrounded by tasks which desperately need doing – but no cash to bring them all together.

We have long ago solved the problem of production in other words, and we have yet to manage the problem of distribution.

But one idea from an American city might show us all a way forward – if it works. The Commonwealth project in Minneapolis aims to find a way of linking over-production with the people who need it most. It is the brainchild of former political activist Joel Hodroff, and it launched its pilot programme in the



**David Boyle**

We have inner cities packed with people who have time and skills available, surrounded by tasks which desperately need doing – but no cash to bring them all together.

Minneapolis inner city neighbourhood of Lyndale in April.

It works like this. Jane, an unemployed carpenter, does some work for a charity or local agency which can’t afford to pay her in dollars, but can afford to pay her in “service credits” – a kind of voluntary sector version of Al Miles.

She can use these in a range of restaurants, shops or other services around the city which have agreed to take them – usually at off-peak times. So a restaurant which has to employ cooks and waiters and heat the place all afternoon for the benefit of a handful of customers, can fill their tables for service credits plus enough dollars to cover their costs.

The businesses signing up include

Camp Snoopy, the theme park in the middle of the gigantic Mall of America, the biggest shopping mall in the USA, just outside the city – Charlie Brown happens to be from Minneapolis. Camp Snoopy has to stay open through busy Saturdays as well as quiet Wednesdays.

They can clear their excess stock without expensive marketing, but at the same time the businesses are underpinning a parallel economy where people can “earn” for doing the kind of community tasks the government now seems unable to pay for itself.

It is early days yet for Commonwealth, which was launched with the backing of the local council, a couple of local banks and some big thinkers like Alvin Toffler and Paul Hawken.

There are too few participants yet to launch their patented dual-track credit card known, rather self-consciously, as the “Community HeroCard”.

“But we are using the world’s first dual-currency service slips,” says Mr Hodroff with enthusiasm. “It is going well, which means we are making it easier to talk to major banks and retailers about taking part.”

If all it works out, it could be a bonanza for Commonwealth – they take a percentage of each transaction, like a credit card company – but it could also be an interesting new model for Tony Blair, and other politicians looking for new ways of unleashing the support of volunteers while their budgets shrink.

The options before most governments these days are pretty meagre to get local needs met. They can print more money – but that would cause inflation and scare the international money markets. They can cut the budgets and hope for the best, but if they get voted out of office.

The Commonwealth idea is to use the economy’s manifest overcapacity to put purchasing power in the hands of people who don’t have it at the moment.

We have to work to do, we have plenty of people with skills, we have sufficient technical and management capacity, we even have ade-

quate energy and raw materials. The only thing that’s getting in the way and preventing that work from being completed is a lack of money,” says Mr Hodroff. “That’s absurd. Money was created to promote economic activity, not to inhibit it. We have outgrown the old scarce commodity money and it is time to introduce something new.”

Commonwealth’s credits are a new twist to the phenomenon of computer money, which – unlike pounds and dollars – is infinite.

Air Miles or Sainsbury’s Reward points are limited only by the cash-flow and productive capacity of the company issuing them, and because they don’t want to be overwhelmed. They come from nowhere and, when they are spent, they don’t go into the bank vault – they just get deleted.

Private sector finances like these do not circulate in the traditional way. They exist to encourage people to act in a certain way – normally to buy more. So why not invest some corporate “mooccy” which encourages people to get active in the community?

The idea of “service credits” or “time dollars” paid to volunteers has become a familiar aspect of American life, though it has yet to catch on in the UK. You can earn them in well over 100 US cities now – but Commonwealth is probably the first time this business has been involved in the idea.

But if they want to offload surplus stock in a useful way, Commonwealth needs to tackle poverty.

“Participation will be totally voluntary,” Mr Hodroff says. “But my guess is that people will flood off welfare to earn 10 community service dollars per hour.”

It is early days yet, and many people might prefer welfare. You don’t, after all, want to build a second-tier economy for poor people – palmed off by participating businesses with their second-rate stock.

It is a legitimate concern, but Commonwealth is an exciting idea. If Tony Blair wants to find ways of regenerating the social capital lost over the past generation, this might be a good place to start looking.

# Merman’s philosophy for the Nineties – small is beautiful

## PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Sophie Merman: Doesn't want pressure to come from the City

of Zeneca's headquarters in Stanhope Gate, Mayfair – you may get buried in the stampede of executives fleeing the building.

Yesterday Nick Bateman became the third suit at Zeneca to leave the drugs company in a fortnight. He follows John Mayo, Zeneca's finance director who defected to GEC two weeks ago, and Dr David U'Pritchard, who jumped ship last week to join SmithKline Beecham.

Mr Bateman has joined drug database software provider Chemical Design Holdings as chief executive. Also joining the fast-growing company in Chipping Norton is John Lambert, a freelance healthcare consultant, who will be finance director.

Mr Bateman will have plenty of work to do. Chemical Design's share price has slipped this year from a high of 265p in February to close at 160p on Tuesday.

There's one with a harder heart than a London club doorkeeper, as Ted Graham, BT's chief spokesman, found out to his cost this week.

BT is about to move into posh new premises in Berkeley Square, Mayfair, just next door to swanky

private club Mortons. Our Ted, mindful of the amount of good business he could steer Mortons' way, assumed he would be allowed into the club free, gratis and for nothing. Not so. Caught up £375 or stay-out club staff informed him.

Philip Randall has been elected the new managing partner of the UK side of Arthur Andersen, following the elevation of his colleague, Jim Wadia, to the post of managing partner of the worldwide accountancy behemoth.

Mr Randall tells me it wasn't a terribly tight contest: “Mine was the only name on the ballot paper.” It follows a period of in-fighting at the giant firm during which the accountancy side was unable to agree with the management consultants about who should lead the overall global firm. Mr Wadia just missed the top slot.

One of the things which will exercise Mr Randall in his new job is the impending 40th anniversary of the arrival of Arthur Andersen in the UK from the firm's native Chicago.

John Willcock

### Foreign Exchange Rates

Sterling		Dollar		D-Mark	
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month
US	1.5926	1.5926	1.5926	1.5926	1.5926
Canada	2.2185	2.2185	2.2185	2.2185	2.2185
Australia	1.2188	1.2188	1.2188	1.2188	1.2188
France	9.9800	9.9800	9.9800	9.9800	9.9800
Italy	12.8713	12.8713	12.8713	12.8713	12.8713
Spain	12.8713	12.8713	12.8713	12.8713	12.8713
Portugal	5.4226	5.4226	5.4226	5.4226	5.4226
Austria	6.1070	6.1070	6.1070	6.1070	6.1070
Hong Kong	4.4222	4.4222	4.4222	4.4222	4.4222
Malaysia	4.4222	4.4222	4.4222	4.4222	4.4222
Singapore	5.9727	5.9727	5.9727	5.9727	5.9727
South Africa	2.3959	2.3959	2.3959	2.3959	2.3959

### Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	0.9998	0.9998	Nigeria	13.0249	62.0000
Austria	20.0552	13.0649	Oman	0.6134	0.3851
Brazil	1.2743	1.0989	Pakistan	84.4748	40.9795
Costa Rica	1.0230	0.8740	Philippines	42.9485	30.0000
Egypt	3.3599	3.3599	Portugal	5.7902	5.6408
Falkland Islands	0.8307	0.5548	Qatar	5.7902	5.6408
Ghana	330436	220000	Russia	927.656	562200
Greece	4.2000	2.2000	Russia	927.656	562200
Iraq	572905	379700	Russia	927.656	562200
Kuwait	0.4862	0.3062	Russia	927.656	562200

Forward rates quoted high to low at a discount:

subtract from spot rate

Dollar rates quoted as reciprocals.

For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0891 123 3033.

Calls cost 50p per minute.

### Interest Rates

UK	Germany	US	Japan
7.00%	Discount	2.50%	8.50%
3.10%	Lombard	4.50%	5.00%
2.40%	Prime	7.00%	6.00%
9.9800	Discount	4.75%	2.50%
8.9800	Denmark	10-Day Repo	5.25%
8.9800	Advances	Swedish	100%

Yield %

Yield %</p



## sport

# The contribution made by men who saw sport as a means of escaping from the darkness ought not to be forgotten

An old collier was once asked on television for his views about the violence then evident in Welsh rugby. "When there is always a chance that the roof will come in over your head, you don't worry about a boot in the face on Saturday," he replied.

A legend in the North-East of England is that any position in a football team could be filled by shooting down a pit shaft. From the coalfields of Lanarkshire and south Ayrshire came three of the greatest managers football has known: Matt Busby, Bill Shankly and Jack Stein. Shanky's small village of Gleabuck alone sent out 30 professionals.

Numerous rugby and football internationals and such notable fighters as Jimmy Wilde, Tommy Farr, Eddie Thomas and Howard Win-

stone were bred in the Welsh mining valleys. The most feared of England's fast bowlers, Harold Larwood, was a Nottinghamshire collier. Rugby league recruited many of its stars from the coalfields of Yorkshire.

Doubts about the long-term future of Britain's mining industry recall its importance in British sporting history. From the blackness of a working life underground, the perils many first endured at only 14 years old, came many heroes of the sports fields.

In many cases, one of the most significant things about their influence was understandable social awareness. "The first thing you must do is join the miners' union," my father said when I left home at 17 to fol-

low him into footfall. At the same age he was offered a professional contract of £3 per week by Merthyr Town, who were then in the old Third Division. "When Merthyr refused to pay the extra 10 shillings [they relented a few hours later] your grandfather thought I was worth it, cried all the way home," he said.

"Not because I wasn't going to get a living from football but because it meant going back down that black hole, going to work in winter when it was dark and dark when I came up again." No wonder that he was a committed socialist and, until the horrors of Stalinism were revealed, a member of the Communist Party.

On the face of it, you might think that people of my generation and beyond dwell too much on the



KEN JONES

past, but it was from mining communities that British sport drew much of its impetus. If we look back only briefly on those times, men who had escaped from the harshest of working environments were everywhere in football, some nimble,

some hard, all seeing things in the alternative light of deprivation.

Nobody in my life has conveyed a more distinct impression of genuine toughness than Wilf Copping, who played in Arsenal's great team in the 1930s and made 20 appearances for England. A Yorkshireman, his craggy, blue-scarred face could have been cut from the coalface he worked when little more than a boy. Losing blood meant nothing, cowards appalled him.

The story goes that Copping took on Italy single-handed in an infamous encounter at Highbury in 1934 that saw three England players injured seriously after only 20 minutes. If the work of Copping was hard but fair, he quickly restored the

The broad philosophy that established Stein as perhaps the leading manager in British football history was shaped underground and by the working-class values embedded in his nature.

Stein, who worked in the pits for 11 years from the age of 16, said: "I knew that wherever I went, whatever work I did, I'd never be allowed better men. It was a place where phoneys and cheats couldn't survive for long. Down there for eight hours, you're away from God's fresh air and sunshine and there's nothing that can compensate for that. I think everybody should go down the pit at least once to learn what darkness is."

If those of us whose roots are in old mining communities must guard against an overkill of sentimentality, we are entitled to argue that no environment has given more to British sport. If the pit-head wheels have almost stopped turning, the legacy lives on.

The tone of sport in the 1990s is set by the elite corps, that is to say by the richest gamesters - the stars who have swatted their way up to prodigious salaries, are admiringly interviewed and receive on television and in popular newspapers the same adoring space as royals and rock stars.

The impulse to take up a game is now very often the impulse to earn a fortune. In that context, the contribution made by men who saw sport as a means of escaping from darkness ought not to be forgotten.

## Sampras masters sentiment

**John Roberts** finds the world No 1 in confident yet nostalgic mood as he prepares for the start of next week's US Open at Flushing Meadow

Pete Sampras had travelled little more than 50 yards across New York's Flushing Meadow, from the US Open's former centre court to the new one due to be inaugurated next Monday, and was already feeling nostalgic. "I kind of miss the old stadium," the world champion said, "that's kind of where I made my mark in 1990."

As a 19-year-old in 1990, Sampras became the tournament's youngest men's singles champion. In the process, the Californian defeated the last two men to win the title three times in a row, Ivan Lendl, in the quarter-finals, and John McEnroe, in the semis, and overwhelmed Andre Agassi in the final.

Success over the coming fortnight would bring Sampras a third consecutive triumph in his home Grand Slam event - a three-set according to the local media - and a fourth in all. It would be the 11th Grand Slam singles title of his career, putting him level with Bjorn Borg and Rod Laver and one short of Roy

Boris Becker has withdrawn from the US Open following the death from cancer of his adviser and close friend, Axel Meyer-Woelde, tournament officials announced yesterday.

The 29-year-old Becker, a former world No 1 and winner of the 1990 US Open, had been expected to make his final appearance in a Grand Slam at the event, which starts on Monday.

Albert Costa replaces Becker as the No 16 seed, becoming the fifth Spaniard to be seeded in the men's singles.

Emerson's record 12. More over, Sampras would have acquired three of the year's four major singles titles. The last man to accomplish that was Mats Wilander in 1983. The Swede was unable to win at Wimledon while the French champion has eluded Sampras.

Acquitting himself as much as possible with the fresh environment of the 23,000-seater Arthur Ashe Stadium, the seating capacity of which is scheduled to be reduced from 20,000 to 10,000 after this year's championships?

"It's going to be a pleasure to play in the new stadium," Sampras said. "It's beautiful, very well put together. It's a great impression just walking in there and seeing the new seats. The locker-room facilities are much nicer, and it will be a lot more convenient to get around."

The concrete playing surface at the US Open makes it possible for competitors to practice on the show courts. The speed of the new court



Martin McCague (right) is ordered out of the Kent attack by Alan Whitehead yesterday Photograph: Richard Austin

## Long hot summer reaches boiling point

**Derek Pringle** says that pitch battles have long been a part of the game

bouncer, bouncer, beamer, the

for cricket to lay the blame on the same doorstep. Convenient, were it not for the fact that, hidden from television - an option not available to Mark Holt's and Robert Croft's shoving match last week - it has been going on for donkey's years.

Before the stripies sit at Lord's and elsewhere choke on their gin and tonics, aggression is not something that can be turned on and off at the flick of a switch. Unlike other team games, cricket can be distilled into a series of one to one duels. Unsurprisingly then, it can get personal, especially when one party is getting humiliated

With tiffs and skirmishes in the offing, the recent hot and humid weather, it would be tempting

- as McCague was when Rob Turner took 22 runs off his first two overs.

While no one condones persistent law-breakers, there are punishments available and cricket must not get its knickers in a twist every time something out of the ordinary occurs.

As a game that was not so long ago described as elitist, excluder and dull, its recent notoriety will probably come as a relief to those who probably thought you first had to enrol at finishing school to play it.

Nobody wants to see yobbish behaviour on a grand scale, but if cricket can't occasionally show they are human, how on earth are we going to popularise the game?

## Wells makes Cork and Derbyshire suffer

The Leicestershire opener Vince Wells, dropped by Dominic Cork when he had made 25, made bottom of the table Derbyshire pay with a magnificent 190 at Grace Road yesterday. Wells' third century of the season helped Leicestershire to 373 for 7 at the close.

Kevin Curran made the highest score of his career to help Northamptonshire fight back against Glamorgan at Aberavenny. The veteran all-rounder came in at 51 for 3 and hit an unbeaten 159 as his side closed on 302 for 8.

Yorkshire have re-signed the

Australian left-hander Darren Lehmann on a one-year contract as their overseas player for next season, and he repaid their faith with his 11th innings of 50 or more in 19 Championship innings to put Yorkshire in command against Sussex at Scarborough.

As McCague was when Rob

Turner took 22 runs off his first two overs.

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Nobody wants to see yobbish

behaviour on a grand scale, but if cricket can't occasionally

show they are human, how on

earth are we going to popularise the game?

Neither side would have wanted

it any other way. Unevenly

grassed, the pitch provided

enough movement and, from

time to time, variations in

bounce for any self-respecting

seamer to have a birthday.

Warwickshire's bizarre batting display

tended to suggest they were an unplayable ball any minute.

As for Worcestershire, Phil

Newport, who would probably

have made the ball do everything

except talk, was unfit and the

new ball was in the hands of the relatively inexperienced Alahmir Shariar and Maneez Mirza who, in their anxiety to

## Law takes charge again

**JON CULLEY**  
reports from Worksop  
Essex 319-4 v  
Nottinghamshire

The strength of Australian cricket can be measured in those players left out of this summer's Ashes party as well as those included. Stuart Law, the 28-year-old Essex batsman, was among those considered not good enough, yet he has plundered runs handsomely around the county circuit. His omission might not have pleased him - but his county could not be more delighted.

Yesterday, Law overcame the handicap of a slow, greenish pitch here to record his fourth Championship century of the season, and his sixth in all first-class matches, equalising his 1996 tally. It enabled Essex, still title contenders even in eighth place at the start of this round, to establish a promising position after their captain, Paul Prichard, had won the toss on his return after injury.

The wicket here has a history of assisting the spinners and

Essex have come well equipped, with Peter Such, who began his career with Nottinghamshire, bringing local knowledge as well as his other attributes.

Fluent strokeplay proved difficult but the Queenslander was prepared to take on the bowling and take a few risks. It paid off when the second of two sixes off the left-arm spinner, Usman Afzaal, sailed towards the caravan park at midwicket to bring him 35 off 79 balls. Law scored his second 50 off only 38 balls, moving to three figures when he hit Matthew Dowman in the air over extra cover for the 15th of 18 fours.

After Prichard and Darren Robinson had put on 94 for the first wicket, Law was well supported by Tim Hodgson, playing in only his second Championship match, who revealed himself as a sound technician of some promise before Nathan Astle delivered him with a slower ball.

Law added 94 in 23 overs with Paul Grayson for the fourth wicket before the Australian skied the first ball of Afzaal's post-tea spell and was caught in front of the wicket by the keeper, Wayne Noon.

The wicket here has a history of assisting the spinners and

exploit the conditions, found it hard to put two successive deliveries in the right place.

Even so, there was enough going on for Andy Moles and Nick Knight, both recovering from broken fingers, to be justifiably aggressive against the new ball; Knight's innings was probably no better, though certainly no worse, than he feared after a seven-week absence.

Unsurprisingly, he found timing elusive. Once he even hurriedly took a band off the bat. He prevailed for J7 exploratory overs, helped by a fair amount of bowling at his legs, and when he perished it was to an attempted cut off a ball that bounced more than he expected.

By now, with the ball starting to swing more than earlier in the sultry afternoon, the bowlers had no doubt relaxed and Sheriff often went past the outside edge with splendid deliveries. But Warwickshire had long since embarked on a cheerful roller-coaster ride in which everything off length or line was heartily thumped away, typified by Neil Smith's 30 from 67 balls before he fell to the best of Steve Rhodes's four catches.

MIKE CAREY  
reports from Edgbaston  
Worcestershire 252  
Worcestershire 20-2

Some things are easier to forecast than others. The rain, for instance, which trimmed yesterday's morning session by 22 overs was not foreshadowed by the experts. David Houghton, Worcestershire's coach, was much nearer the mark when he said he expected a scam bowler's pitch here.

Neither side would have wanted

it any other way. Unevenly

grassed, the pitch provided

enough movement and, from

time to time, variations in

bounce for any self-respecting

seamer to have a birthday.

By now, with the ball starting

to swing more than earlier in the

sultry afternoon, the bowlers

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roller-coaster ride in which

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heartily thumped away, typified

by Neil Smith's 30 from 67

balls before he fell to the best

of Steve Rhodes's four catches.

Starting today

NATWEST UNDER-19 SECOND TEST

(First day of four, including Sunday)

Huddersfield: England v Zimbabwe (11.00)

Worcestershire: England v Zimbabwe (11.00)

Leicestershire: England v Zimbabwe (11.00)

Nottinghamshire: England v Zimbabwe (11.00)

Warwickshire: England v Zimbabwe (11.00)

Yorkshire: England v Zimbabwe (11.00)

Essex: England v Zimbabwe (11.00)

Gloucestershire: England v Zimbabwe (11.00)

Midlands: England v Zimbabwe (11.00)

Northants: England v Zimbabwe (11.00)

Warwickshire: England v Zimbabwe (11.00)

Nottinghamshire: England v Zimbabwe (11.00

## Halifax's denial on McAlpine move

### Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

Halifax have denied reports that they are in talks with Huddersfield aimed at basing a merged club at the McAlpine Stadium. Marriage brokers have hinted at a wedding between Halifax, with their Super League status, and their West Yorkshire neighbours, with their state-of-the-art ground.

Halifax announced on Sunday that their match against Oldham was "probably" the last league game at their antiquated Thrum Hall ground, but that, says their chief executive, Nigel Wood, because their plan to move in with Halifax Town FC at The Shay is still alive, despite repeated delays.

"There is no dialogue between us and Huddersfield," Wood said. "We are going to The Shay. There should be an announcement within 14 days and we should be playing there next season. We are pursuing a future as a stand-alone Super League club. We have had a bad couple of months, but we don't see Huddersfield as the way forward."

The delay with The Shay has been to make sure that we will be moving to something better than we have got now."

A Rugby League rescue squad of three arrived at Central Park yesterday to help Wigan through the crisis triggered by the resignation of the club's chairman, Jack Robinson.

The RFL's vice-chairman and finance kingpin, Roy Waudby, along with the finance director, Tony Eagleton, and its legal advisor, Ronnie Teeman, were assessing the situation.

Among the financial commitments they may look at as a result is the huge contract under which Denis Betts is due to return to the club next season.

The League's chief executive, Maurice Lindsay, has already been highly critical of what it will cost to bring Betts home from Auckland and the team from headquarters could argue that it is irresponsible in the club's current plight.

The first tour of the United States by a British representative side is to take place next month when Great Britain students play three matches there.

Players from all four home nations are in a squad that will play two matches against student opposition, followed by one against the full international line-up, the USA Tomahawks.



Britain's Greg Rusedski, now up to No 23 in the world, plays a backhand volley in his three-set defeat of Mikael Tillstrom, of Sweden, in the Boston Open on Tuesday

Photograph: Victoria Arocho/AP

## Ballesteros keeps wild cards close to chest

### Golf

**ANDY FARRELL**  
reports from Straffan,  
Co Kildare

While Tom Kite agonised over his two Ryder Cup wild-card selections, only deciding last Sunday over dinner with his wife and vice-captain, his one consolation was that he was not Seve Ballesteros.

The question of how Europe's captain is going to

squeeze three of his best players – Nick Faldo, Jose Maria Olazabal and Jesper Parnevik – into two positions has been vexing most people, including those likely to make up the team. But not Ballesteros. He has already made up his mind.

Ballesteros does not have to announce his final two until the 10 automatic places are filled at the end of next week's BMW International in Munich. Instead of waiting until the following

Monday to reveal all, Ballesteros will wait only 45 minutes after the tournament finishes.

Ballesteros said he made up his mind prior to last week's USPGA, when Faldo and Olazabal missed the cut on 13 and 12 over par respectively. Unlike Faldo and Parnevik, Olazabal can still qualify and is playing in the Smurfit European Open, which starts today. With £141,660 for the winner here and a first prize of £125,000 in Munich, anyone

down to 125th on the qualifying list can still make the team, mathematically speaking.

More realistically, it is the possibility of his countryman, who is 12th in the standings, making the team automatically that Ballesteros was clearly referring to when he said: "One thing is for sure, I expect the situation to change in the next two weeks."

If the situation ends as it is right now, I have already made up my mind. And if the situation changes, I have made up my mind. It is a secret until 31 August. It is not a dilemma, it is very simple."

Asked whether he would be taking into account Faldo's performance in the World Series this week in Ohio, Ballesteros added: "Whatever happens, it is not going to make a difference." Having swapped his player's hat, the one he can't fit for toffee, for his captain's sombrero, Ballesteros was in much improved spirits. When probed further, he replied: "Do you think you are Columbo?"

Unless Ballesteros, who commanded him well definitely not pick himself and named Miguel Angel Jimenez as his vice-captain, was all red herrings, there were enough clues for even Dumbo to work it out. What he would like is for Olazabal to qualify automatically, leaving him free to pick Faldo and Parnevik. If not, it could be Faldo and Ollie.

Should Faldo get the nod, Colin Montgomerie expects to partner him after Ballesteros paired them for a shoot-out at Wentworth which they won. Montgomerie beat Phil Mickelson in a made-for television match in Concord on Monday, then flew home on Concorde on Tuesday. But his luggage was lost flying to Dublin yesterday and he went to the pro shop and spent £120 on a shirt and trousers to play in the pro-am.

### Bullets and Giants look to States

#### Basketball

Manchester Giants and Birmingham Bullets hope they made their last transatlantic transactions of the summer yesterday, when they completed their transfers with new Americans for the British League season beginning on 13 September, writes Richard Taylor.

The Giants' new coach, Jim Brandon, who left Sheffield Sharks earlier in the summer, has signed the fifth 45, 22-year-old guard Brett Larrick, one of the leading scorers in the top college division with Charleston Southern University. The Bullets' new coach, Mike Finger, has signed H L Coleman, one of the top 10 rebounders in college basketball last season.

**Baseball**  
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Toronto 6 Chicago White Sox 5 (five runs); Chicago White Sox 6 Toronto 3 (second); Baltimore 12 Kansas City 9 (first); Cincinnati 1 Kansas City 2 (second); Denver 12 Atlanta 10; San Francisco 10 Milwaukee 9; St Louis 10; New York Yankees 4; Cleveland 7; Seattle 5. Postponed: Boston v Oakland.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Philadelphia 10 Chicago 4; St Louis 10; Atlanta 5; St Louis 10; San Francisco 9; Philadelphia 5; Pittsburgh 5; San Diego 5; Los Angeles 4; New York 5; Atlanta 4; Houston 3.

**Bowls**  
ENGLAND WOMEN'S OPEN STROKE PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP (Skeels on Stone): 70 V K and Den, 72 L Taphorn (Portsmouth), E Weeks (Holland), 71 M (Holland), 72 J (Holland), 73 L (Holland), 74 M (Holland), 75 S (Holland), 76 C (Holland), 77 M (Holland), 78 N (Holland), 79 K (Holland), 80 D (Holland), 81 N (Holland), 82 M (Holland), 83 N (Holland), 84 K (Holland), 85 N (Holland), 86 P (Holland), 87 M (Holland), 88 N (Holland), 89 K (Holland), 90 N (Holland), 91 K (Holland), 92 N (Holland), 93 K (Holland), 94 N (Holland), 95 K (Holland), 96 N (Holland), 97 K (Holland), 98 N (Holland), 99 K (Holland), 00 N (Holland), 01 K (Holland), 02 N (Holland), 03 K (Holland), 04 N (Holland), 05 K (Holland), 06 N (Holland), 07 K (Holland), 08 N (Holland), 09 K (Holland), 10 N (Holland), 11 K (Holland), 12 N (Holland), 13 K (Holland), 14 N (Holland), 15 K (Holland), 16 N (Holland), 17 K (Holland), 18 N (Holland), 19 K (Holland), 20 N (Holland), 21 K (Holland), 22 N (Holland), 23 K (Holland), 24 N (Holland), 25 K 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**Boys from the blackstuff**  
Ken Jones on the contribution made  
by miners to sport, page 22

# sport

## Homeward bound

Pete Sampras looks forward to the  
US Open, page 22

# Atherton aiming to end Ashes series on a high

### Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE

With both the series and the Ashes gone to Australia, it is inevitable that the final Cornhill Test match starting today at the Oval will be dominated by speculation over the uncertain futures of the two captains. Contrasting as their teams' fortunes have been, there remains a distinct possibility that after this Test neither will lead their country again.

Which just goes to prove that win or lose, cricket, for all its sepia-tinted nostalgia, does not discriminate between victor and vanquished.

This summer could not have

progressed more differently for Michael Atherton and Mark Taylor. The Australian captain and his team began in the doldrums; the leader, according to many at the start of the tour, had neither form nor a future. But while his team struggled and eventually lost at Edgbaston, Taylor plumped the depths of his inner resources and came up with the hundred that would buy him the time to get his side back to business. It did not take long and, once they remembered how to win, their efficiency was almost surgical in its precision.

Atherton, on the other hand, saw England begin their campaign dead perfect, as Australia were dispatched in both

the one-day series and the first Test. Suddenly, though, expectation caught up with them and the true pressures of Test cricket – the need for relentless consistency – were brought to bear.

As in the past against sides that can exert constant pressure, they were found wanting and three Tests were lost in succession.

But if the paths to an uncertain future are divergent ones, Taylor has the most to lose by being stood down. Captain or not, Atherton is still England's most reliable and technically proficient batsman and, in injury permitting, has at least another three years of Test cricket in him. On the other hand, Taylor, without the cap-

taincy and nearly 33, will almost certainly never play for Australia again.

However, if his own future is something Taylor can contemplate at leisure when he gets home from this tour, he could still empathise with Atherton. "I have a lot of feeling for Atherton," Taylor said after practice yesterday. "Whether it's right or wrong, the captain carries the can. What I don't aspire to is that by changing the captain, or changing the coach or the team, you are going to change the way things are going. Cricket just doesn't work like that."

These will be heartening words to Atherton, who will contemplate his own future af-

ter this Test is finished. With England's good record at the Oval – 13 wins to Australia's five – many will be hoping a repeat of England's victory there against the Aussies four years ago (coincidentally, Atherton's first win as captain) will help persuade him to remain in charge for this winter's tour to the West Indies.

"A win here will be the best way to finish the series," Atherton said yesterday, although he added that it would be difficult to say whether it would have any bearing on his eventual decision regarding the captaincy.

After the coach David Lloyd's frank criticism of his team's performances on Tues-

day, England nevertheless have a good chance of saving some face and recording their second victory of the series.

Still, it will not be easy. Taylor admitted that, with the rubber dead, theirs was not a "must-win situation". That said, his side, despite the absence of two frontline bowlers, were professional cricketers who play for Australia and would still be "turning up".

Being a Test match, the occasion will not lack for competitiveness and both sides have new faces who have much to play for.

If Shaun Young, Gloucestershire's Tasmanian overseas player, and Mike Kasprowicz get their chance to make a be-

lated point to their tour selection, England's returning players, Mark Ramprakash, Phil Tufnell and (should Dean Headley's bruised ankle still be painful) Peter Martin, all have other places to compete for.

For Ramprakash, a stellar if frustratingly under-achieving talent at Test level, the stakes could not be higher. After 19 Tests, he will know that few are granted the reprieve of resuming a Test career with a batting average of just 16.6.

As his captain said yesterday: "He has to play for the here and now as well as the years to follow."

With the positive endorsements of all those around him, Ramprakash must convince

himself he is the world-class player everyone else believes him to be. To do that here, he must not only conquer two of the world's best bowlers, Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath, but those forces that conspire to deny him from within. It is a task only a man desperate to do himself justice would relish. For some, the future starts here.

**ENGLAND (from left): M A Atherton (capt), M A Boucher, A J Stewart (wkt), N Hussain, G P Thorpe, M R Rampakash, A J Holland, A R Caddick, P J Martin, P C R Tufnell, D E Maclean, S J Headley, C G Kasprowicz, S Young, M Taylor (capt), M T G Bagg, G S Bayliss, J A Healy (wkt), S Young, S K Warner, M S Kasprowicz, G O McGrath. Umpires: P Willey, L Barker (West Indies). Third umpire: K E Palmer (West Indies).**

County reports, page 22

## Umpire acts over McCague beamer

The Kent pace bowler, Martin McCague, was removed from the attack by order of the umpire Alan Whitehead in a turbulent start to yesterday's County Championship match at Taunton.

Whitehead stepped in during McCague's third over which began with two bouncers and a chest-high beamer to the Somerset opener, Rob Turner. The umpire called the second and third deliveries no-balls before summoning the Kent captain, Steve Marsh. McCague retired to the outfield with figures of 2-10-22-0, including four no-balls and Mark Eastham completed the over.

Whitehead insisted that he had no option but to order McCague out of the Kent attack for unfair bowling. "I had no choice in the matter," Whitehead said, "even though it was accidental and McCague apologised. He had already received a final warning before a chest-high full toss, and I have to do the job."

A shaken McCague would only say: "I'm still getting over it. I hope people saw it as accidental because that was certainly the case."

The Kent coach, John Wright, was also saying little. "The umpire is in control of the game and that's all I am prepared to say," he said.

If it was McCague's intention to intimidate the batsmen, it failed. Turner justified his promotion to opener with an innings of 144 as Somerset closed on 366 for 6.

Turner, who went into the match with a first class average of 56, confirmed his growing reputation with a mature innings. The 29-year-old wicket keeper reached his century off 188 balls, with 14 fours, and maintained concentration superbly to bat for six hours nine minutes, adding six more boundaries before losing his wicket to a tired book shot.

Simon Ecclestone, captaining Somerset in the absence of Peter Bowler (back injury) and Richard Hardwick (virus), won the toss and took first use of a dry pitch. After 14 had come from McCague's first over, including no-balls, Ben Phillips removed Piran Holloway first ball as he edged to Trevor Ward at second slip. Marcus Trescothick was caught behind without scoring off Matthew Fleming to leave Somerset 76 for 3.

Ecclestone then joined Turner, only to suffer a knee injury which caused him to retire on three. He later returned to reach his maiden championship century off 170 balls with 16 fours and a six, and was 103 not out at the close after sharing a sixth-wicket stand of 171 with the resilient Turner.

Kent, who started the game in second place, also saw their Championship chances denied by two badly dropped catches, which gave lives to Ecclestone on 22 and Turner on 110. The unfortunate McCague and Alan Wells were the culprits at point and slip respectively.

Cricket at boiling point, photograph, page 22

# Rowell leaves red faces at Twickenham

CHRIS HEWITT

Rugby Union Correspondent

Jack Rowell, the most successful club coach in the history of the English game and no mean performer at Test level, yesterday called time on his three and a half year career at the helm of the national team and left those Rugby Football Union officials responsible for a shabby and squalid high summer denouement to face the consequences of their actions. The chastened inhabitants of Twickenham's corridors of power must now conjure a replacement from thin air, having failed to find one in the shadowy spaces behind Rowell's back.

Rowell informed leading figures on the national playing committee yesterday afternoon of his decision to relinquish his position with effect from Sunday week, when his current part-time contract expires.

Almost exactly 48 hours previously Ian McGeechan, the former Scotland coach who guided the Lions to victory in South Africa in June, had rejected an official offer to fill Rowell's shoes, leaving the Twickenham tempests almost knock-kneed with embarrassment.

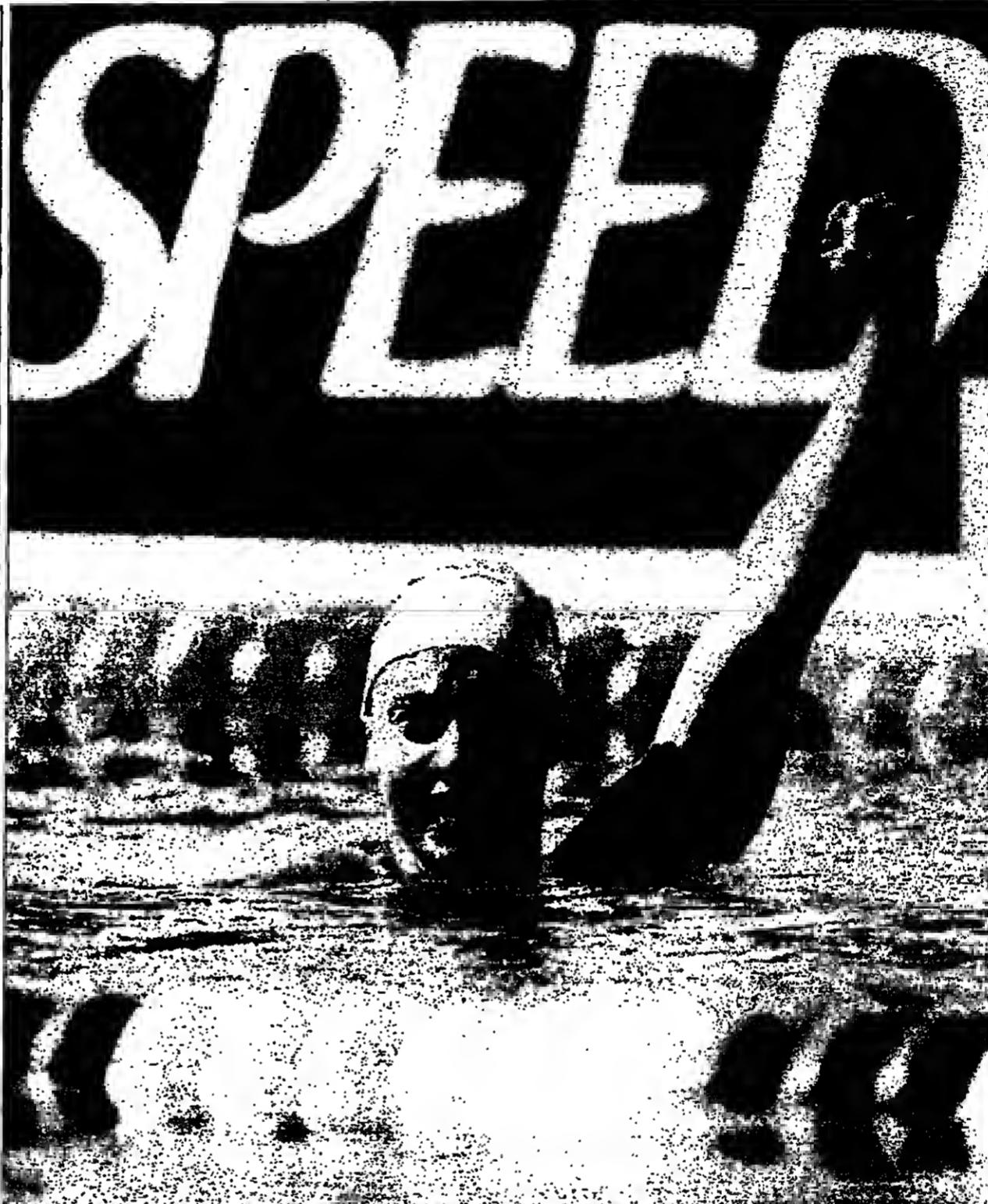
Having failed to lure their preferred choice and lost their incumbent as a direct result of their hole-in-the-corner tactics – it would be stretching credulity to suggest that the approach to McGeechan did not hasten Rowell's departure, whatever diplomatic face the Twickenham spin-doctors attempt to apply to

the situation – the RFU find themselves in the prickliest of positions. England are scheduled to play 13 internationals over the next 10 months, starting with gentle autumn run-outs against New Zealand, South Africa and Australia, and unless Bob Dwyer, the former Wallaby World Cup-winning coach can be persuaded out of the remaining year of his contract at Leicester, they will be forced to place their faith in an untried, untested roofer.

Dwyer was sounded out during last season's Five Nations' Championship – a tournament Rowell came within 20 scoreless minutes against the French of winning in Grand Slam style – but there was no follow-up. Instead, the RFU went after McGeechan and the hot-streak tactician behind the Super 12 champions, Auckland. Rowell was fully aware of both initiatives and opted to keep his counsel, but private conversations with colleagues and acquaintances on Monday left them in no doubt as to the depth of his anger and frustration.

If Fran Cotton, Bill Beaumont and the rest of the new RFU hierarchy decide against reopening negotiations with Dwyer or, indeed, Henry or McGeechan, they may opt to appoint a senior and well-respected rugby figure as manager and pair him with a young, enthusiastic coach. Roger Utley, a member of Beaumont's 1980 Grand Slam-winning side and a key figure in the coaching team that led England to the World Cup Final six years ago, would be an obvious candidate for the management role.

Among the coaching contenders, Clive Woodward of Bath would bring the most visionary qualities to a job crying out for an ideas man while Richard Hill, who played under Rowell at Bath before starting a successful coaching stint at Gloucester, is highly thought of in RFU circles for his deep commitment and strong work ethic.



The unstoppable Michelle de Bruin celebrates victory in the 200m freestyle in Seville yesterday. Photograph: Reuter

## De Bruin's sour success

### Swimming

JAMES PARRACK  
reports from Seville

Just as the European Championships burst into life on the second day of competition in Seville yesterday, Ireland's Michelle de Bruin, formerly Michelle Smith, threatened to suffocate them.

Britain won their second gold in the men's 4x200m freestyle relay and set two British records but the controversy surrounding De Bruin continues to dominate the championships. Yesterday she won her second title in the women's 200m freestyle and appears unstoppable in her march towards an unprecedented five gold medals.

Such is the speculation of drug use that national records of other participating countries have been overshadowed. De Bruin, who has always denied using drugs and has never failed a drugs test, has been the centre of controversy ever since winning three Olympic gold medals in Atlanta. It has also

been suggested that she is a puppet to her husband, Erik.

The saga began here on Sunday when Erik was called to explain to LEN, the European governing body, why he fraudulently gained access to doping control in Vienna two years ago. On Monday, Michelle was not allowed to enter one event (her entry was after the deadline) and withdrew from another. On the same day, all her entry times were thrown out because they were done more than 12 months ago, so she has swum in the slowest heat of each of her events.

Then Erik, himself banned from international athletics for a positive drug test in 1993, issued a lengthy solicitor's letter to a Canadian journalist demanding an explanation and apology for remarks made on radio in Ireland in July.

Then after her first gold medal on the opening day of competition, she failed to turn up for an official press conference which is required of all medalists in Seville. Hers, however, was a spontaneous crowded gathering outside doping control.

It happened again in February. No doubt Michelle de Bruin in 1993 has been beyond the belief of some observers. In the 400m individual medley, for example, she improved 5.32sec between 1988 and 1992 to a modest 4:17.89; after meeting Erik in 1993 she improved by 17.7sec in less than two years to become Olympic champion. In a 26-year-old who has competed in two previous Olympics it is unheard of.

Added to this she refused to comply with out-of-competition drug-testing protocols, failing to provide details of her whereabouts and was unavailable for testing in October 1995 and again in 1996. After a written warning to the Irish ASA in January this year, speculation grew that she would be banned when

she happened again in February.

No doubt Michelle de Bruin's clouds will have a golden lining this week, and there is a golden glow breaking over the British squad, too. The men's 4x200m freestyle relay team were jubilant after Paul Palmer added the team gold to the one he won on Tuesday. Before the race, Jamie Salter, who missed an individual bronze by one-hundredth of a second, said he would be giving everything to win a gold. His phenomenal final leg of 1:48.45 overhauled a deficit of almost a second to take Britain's first medal in this event since 1938.

Added to record-breaking form was Jamie King, Palmer's teammate from Bath, recording a time of 2:29.91 from the heats in the 200m breaststroke.

The man of the day today will be the Russian, Alex Popov. The first man to retain the Olympic 100m freestyle title since John Weismuller, Popov is returning to international competition after nearly losing his life when stabbed in a Moscow street market last August. He nearly took his life.

## Lee and Clark insist Kinkladze will stay at City

### Football

RUPERT METCALF

Francis Lee, the Manchester City chairman, is trying to dampen speculation about the departure of Georgi Kinkladze by insisting that the Georgian international is staying at Maine Road.

"Our highest price this season is going to be getting into the Premiership and to do that without a star player of Kin-

kladze's quality would make it difficult," Lee said. "I have played with and alongside the best players in the world and Kinkladze is in that category."

Frank Clark, the City manager, backed Lee by saying: "We've had no inquiries from anybody... We are not looking to sell Kinkladze."

The Tottenham striker, Steffen Iversen, looks set to escape disciplinary action over a gesture he made towards a referee last week.

The Norwegian was captured on camera aiming a derisive hand signal at the back of Steve Lodge after he was booked for his part in a brawl that interrupted Spurs' 2-1 defeat at West Ham. However, Lodge has viewed film of the incident and has decided against asking the Football Association to take action against Iversen.

Eric Cantona will not receive any money in his rivalry dispute with Manchester United, the club insisted yesterday.

Brighton and Hove Albion are still pushing their plan to play the rest of this season's home games at Millwall in-

stead of Gillingham. Yesterday the League was meeting the two clubs, police and council officials to discuss the consequences of Brighton playing at the New Den for up to three years.

"We have received initial encouragement from the League in terms of making a formal application for the Millwall ground share," Dick Knight, Brighton's chairman-elect, said.

"The League are fully aware that it is the overwhelming choice of all Brighton fans."